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ACALANES HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 55, Number 2

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BLUEPRINT

Lance and Luke Save the Day

*How Leadership Rescued
Homecoming pg. 21*

Inside...

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- Mudslinging pg. 10-11.
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Blueprint photo/Will McCosker

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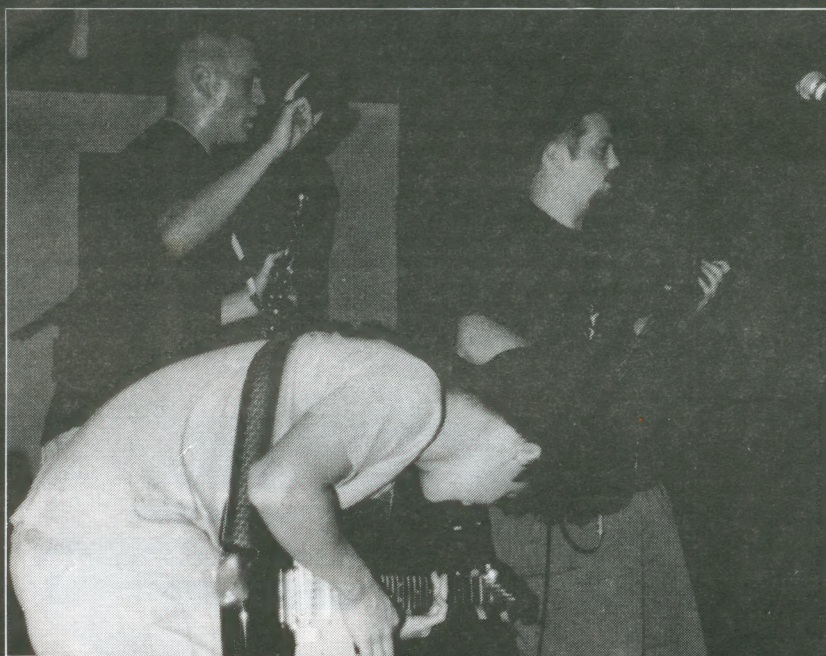
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ON THE COVER: Seniors Morgan Miles and Dave Miskie pump up the student body with dancing tips for the Homecoming dance.

Photo of the Issue



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Former AHS students Meric Long and Forrest Day, of the popular band Boogaloo Cats, perform at the Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Oct. 16.

Blueprint '98-'99

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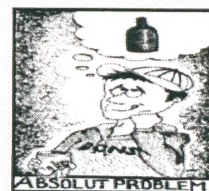
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A CALANES BLUEPRINT NEWS

INSIDE



Survey Reveals
Teen Drinking
Problem
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STUDENT PROTEST

Students Protest Education Sellout

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

Recent protests by high school students have targeted the privatization of public education and the recent studies that show California is giving more money to prisons and less to its own public education system.

One such protest was held Oct. 9 in front of the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco. Inside the hotel, Steve Forbes, Pete Wilson, and several other big wig Republicans gathered to discuss vouchers and corporate investments, topics which have become heavily debated because of the upcoming elections.

Several students from Acalanes attended the protest to oppose the voucher system and the general idea of privatizing public education, though all had different reasons.

Sophomore Matt Berry, a member of the International Socialist Organization, said the reason he protested was that corporations have absolutely no business in any aspect of public education.

Freshman Chris Eaton felt that privatization would hurt the public schools' funding and would be especially detrimental in areas like San Francisco, which is in need of good schools.

Senior Ellen Love thought that if the voucher system was implemented in California, it would hurt the lower income families. Love said that as the money left public education and moved to the private sector, only the middle class could afford private schools, even with state help, forcing those who can not af-



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Wille

Several Acalanes students gathered outside the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco on Oct. 9 to protest the privatization of schools and the cutting of funds to public schools.

ford private education to be taught in the lesser quality public education system.

In San Leandro, there was another protest that was held with between 2,000 to 2,600 high school students in attendance from the greater Bay Area. Students protested against the fact that California is beginning to spend more on prisons and less on public schools. The protest itself began with a march from the local BART station to the Alameda County Juvenile Hall where they gathered before circling back.

Though no Acalanes students reportedly attended this protest, several Acalanes student activists strongly support the protesters'

cause. One student said, "I think that it's a disgusting outrage, and that if there was more money being put into the schools there would be less need to put more money into prisons."

Love said, "The fact that we spend hell of more money on prisons than on schools is some what skewed."

Even sophomore Sam Cunningham, a devout Republican, said that this was one area in which he disagreed with his own party leaders in a political issue.

Acalanes students have shown where their priorities lie and where they draw the line when it comes to public education.

DRUG SURVEY

Survey Uncorks Student 'Ale'ment

First in a series

By Lexi Matsui

Staff Writer

The unofficial Homecoming results weren't about who won the football game or which class pulled it out in floatbuilding. The not-so "sober" statistics — consistent with a newly released survey of student drug and alcohol use — were that 10 kids were caught drinking at the Homecoming dance, the football game and at other events, according to Principal Keith Schmidt.

The numbers fit with the results released last week by the Acalanes Attendance Area Drug and Alcohol Coalition Survey, which shows that 19 percent of Acalanes District students drink alcohol once a week or more, with that number rising to 41 percent for senior boys.

Overall, 75 percent of last year's students used drugs at least once during the school year. Fifty-three percent used tobacco, alcohol and/or marijuana at least once, 61 percent drank alcohol at least once and 42 percent used marijuana at least once.

Of those, 14.5% used marijuana more than once a week, that number rising from 6% for freshmen, and to 21% for seniors.

Although these statistics may seem unbelievably high, the term "drug use" covers all areas from simply trying something once, and (which surveys showed happened mainly at the middle school age) using drugs more than once a day.

Three percent of high school seniors said that they smoked marijuana more than once a day throughout the year. Only 1% said they drank beer more than once a day, and 12% said that they smoked tobacco more than once a day.

Schmidt found the information in the survey that showed how as students get older, their drug use becomes increasingly higher, to be very helpful.

Ryan Han, a Campolindo junior, says that he's noticed the drug use from freshman to junior year has been "significantly elevated." While only 2% of seventh graders said that they drink beer more



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

than once day. Twenty-eight percent of high school students said that they drink beer more than once day. Only 26% of seventh graders who were surveyed said that they used some type of drug throughout the year, and 83% of seniors said that they had.

"I didn't really notice drugs much as a freshman. I don't know if the problem has increased, or if I'm just starting to notice it more," said Junior Kimberly Okamoto.

Yuko Takeoka, a senior, feels that, "It's getting worse. The rates of people doing it have gone up."

Schmidt said that the survey was conducted to "give us some data that would either tell us that we were worrying about nothing in some cases, and in other cases, maybe we weren't making it big enough." Schmidt was not very surprised by the results of the survey, and said that the school will continue doing combinations of motivational speakers,

drug awareness programs, etc. to try and lessen the problem.

Ellen Peterson, the head of the Acalanes Attendance Area Drug/Alcohol Coalition, said that she wasn't surprised by the results. "I taught (at Acalanes) for seven years. I knew a lot about what was going on."

Most tobacco smokers use other drugs as well. Ninety-nine percent of smokers used other drugs as well. Head Counselor Robert Gangi said that he was not surprised because of the addictive nature of nicotine and the risk-taking behavior of smokers.

And while the majority of tobacco smokers are still under-age, 46% of high schoolers were reported smoking tobacco during the school year, and 42% were reported smoking marijuana.

The survey also showed that compared to state levels, junior high school students were below the state average of 18% of marijuana use, 8% of heavy drinking, 53% of alcohol use (at least once), 23% of tobacco use (at least once), and 17% of illicit drug (at least once).

The upper class high schoolers, however, were above the state averages of 39% for marijuana, 21% for heavy drinking, 83% for alcohol (at least once), 53% for tobacco (at least once), and 51% for illicit drugs (at least once).

Han, who went to Acalanes as a freshman, says that he's noticed a change in drug preference in each school, although surveys showed no verification of this. "I would say that there is a lot more drinking and dipping going on at Acalanes than at Campo, but Campo has a bigger marijuana problem."

Okamoto feels that, "Some schools have more drugs than others, but if you average them out, it would probably come out to around 75%, so the survey is pretty accurate."

Peterson said that the survey wasn't meant to be on a school to school basis. "We didn't want people comparing the differences between schools." She describes the differences between the schools as "very small."

MEASURE A

State Measure to Prop Local Initiative

By Ann Bordetsky
Staff Writer

Nothing exemplifies the time-worn problem of schools under reconstruction and inadequate financing to finish the job better than the tidy 400 and dowdy 500 wings.

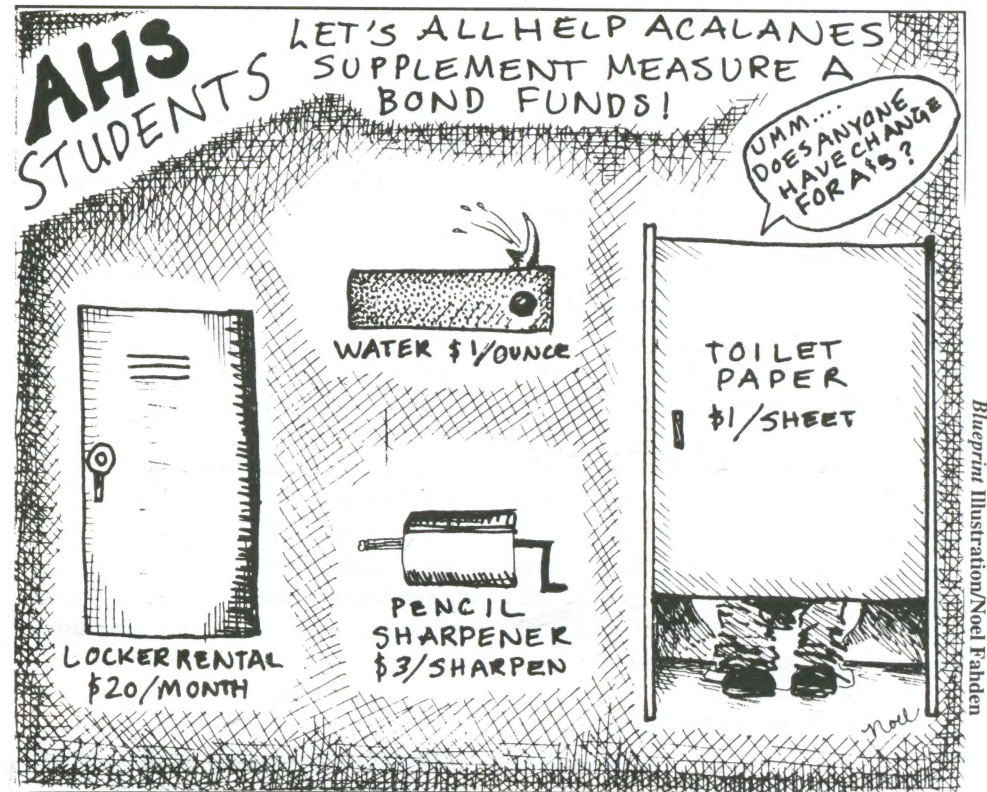
As the school plunges into the whirlpool of construction at the end of this school year beginning with the Theater/Music Complex, financing is an important issue, and a state aid measure may conveniently provide additional funds to rescue Acalanes if current funding runs short.

State measure Prop1A "is the largest bond measure in California history", said Governor Wilson's press secretary, Rich Halberg. If passed, it will provide \$6.7 billion to public schools overwhelmed by growing class sizes and pressures to modernize classrooms. Two billion nine hundred thousand dollars has been designated for new construction, \$700 million for class size reduction, and \$1 billion in emergency funds for schools which can not meet the criterion for eligibility, said Halberg.

The state, however, is not planning on simply giving away the money to Acalanes or other schools in need. If the proposition passes, Acalanes will have to match the requested amount of state funds with an equal amount of its own money, to be eligible for aid, which is the only criterion. Halberg expects that most schools, even Acalanes' less wealthy counterparts, will meet the criterion through local measures, since "they have the same resources".

According to the criterion and Halberg, Acalanes may already be ahead of the game in eligibility. Last year homeowners passed Measure A to fund renovation of schools in the Acalanes High School District, agreeing to pay an extra property tax in order to pay back the \$42 million district-wide loan.

Acalanes will receive \$11 million for construction from local measure A, more than any other school in the district, said Principal Keith Schmidt. Wilson's press secretary said Acalanes could use that money to match funds with state aid to prove Acalanes' eligibility. District Superintendent Dr. James Perino said that he is "going to pursue all the necessary channels to put (the



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Faden

district) in line for any money that might come its way."

Neither Perino nor Schmidt could guarantee that the school will get any money from the state measure.

Construction is planned to begin at the end of this school year, starting with the Theater and Music Complex. The auditorium is to be built first, including classrooms for the music department, which will allow the school to convert the old music rooms of the 500's hall into an expanded art department. The old art room will be combined with the photography rooms to create space for a digital photography computer lab. The school will be rebuilding the end of the 400's and 300's halls, where classrooms will be extended and a duplicate second floor built above them.

Unlike with last year's budget surplus, students will not get a say on how the money is spent. Schmidt has set his first priority list for Acalanes, reiterating that "what is most important is classrooms". Other places in need of renovation such as the track and the school gyms, would have to be ruled out. "Should we run short of money, the

areas...that will get the money last are those that have to do with athletic events", explained Schmidt.

However, some students do not feel comfortable with the idea of sports getting last pick. senior Suzanne Chan said "I don't think it's fair because...the majority of the students participate in sports...I would like to see that if they're going to spend \$11 million dollars on improving the school that at least some of it goes to sports". Chan said she would like to have a guarantee that part of the money will benefit athletic events because "athletic events have as much importance in students' lives as academics".

However, senior Yingying Chi disagreed, saying that "classrooms should get it first because athletics are extracurricular activities."

To make sure that no area falls under the financial guillotine the students are worried about, the district hired Chris Learned to head construction at Acalanes. Schmidt said that all of the construction plans have been laboriously mulled over by Learned and himself, and that "you may not see any holes dug, but there is a lot...going on with plans."

GRADUATE EXIT POLL

Acalanes Graduates Make the Grade

By Jeni Wolowic

Staff Writer

While most report cards grade the student, the tables were turned recently when the Acalanes Union High School District received a report card from past students.

Former graduates of the Acalanes Union High School District believe that they were well prepared in English and math, adequately prepared in history and hard science, but poorly prepared in the areas of computers, business and economics according to the Educational Quality Assessment Survey (EQAS) and the Senior survey sent out by the district administrators last spring.

The EQAS was sent to 3,300 alumni and 402 were returned. It asked questions about how well prepared alumni believed they were in various academic areas, who had the most influence during their high school years, and several background questions such as what colleges they went to.

Despite the fact only 12% of the alumni responded, Brad Sender of The Center For Community Opinion which did the survey said, "these results are very accurate because we compared the results to the senior survey and we can see that every part of the class was represented."

There were 67.8% of those responding to the survey said they were well prepared or above in literature, and 73.7% who felt well prepared or above in written English. Fifty six percent also said they were well prepared in mathematics in general.

Laura Minnis, a 1998 graduate of Acalanes said she felt prepared in, "English, US history, science, and basic computer skills because I took a computer course, I didn't feel prepared in Math and other histories, especially government and economics."

Principal Keith Schmidt said he always gets complaints from parents that Acalanes students do not do enough reading and writing and, "ironically enough, test scores and EQAS results come back indicating that our efforts in English are very successful."

Survey respondents did feel, however, that they were not prepared in computer areas. Over 62% said they had no experience in computer programming and 41% believed that they should have taken a com-

puter course in high school.

An Acalanes computer teacher, said that he didn't see the school making changes "unless parents really apply a lot of pressure and because of the lack of elective space here already it's really going to be a difficult task to accomplish but not impossible."

One of the goals for student learning outcome is that they "understand the concepts of modern technology and apply technological skills" as stated in Acalanes 2000.

Schmidt also said they plan to find exactly what the weaknesses in curriculum of business and economics according to the EQAS and then take action by changing curriculum and meeting with teachers to strengthen the curriculum.

Most graduates felt that their parents had most influenced them followed by friends, teachers, counselors and finally administration on their high school experience. Only 3.8% of graduates felt the school administration had a large influence.

"Whomever is dealing with the students the most is going to have the most influence. It makes sense to that first of all would be the parents and they should be. Within the

school I should hope next would be the teachers," said Schmidt.

There are 42% of the district alumni who responded to the survey that go to the top 50 universities in the nation. Of those surveyed 44% are attending schools in the UC System, 25% attend colleges out of state, and 6% go to California's private schools.

The survey given to both the 1998 seniors and the graduates of the same year cost \$15,000, an undertaking which is very rare for a district to conduct on its own. "Only about 1 in a hundred schools would send out a survey like we did," Superintendent James Perino said.

The ultimate goal for the district with these surveys, Perino hopes, is to get teachers, administrators, parents, and especially students to work together to improve the quality of education and the Focus on Learning process. The main goal for our schools should not be the accreditation of our schools, "but we ask our selves what is it that we're doing that maybe we should quit doing and what is it that we're not doing that maybe we should be doing," said Perino.

STUDYHALL OVERCROWDING

Options Limited for P.E. Students

Students optioning out of P.E. this year cannot work in study hall due to full classrooms.

Instead, these students are transferred to the library or, in some cases, are forced to study in P.E. class. During certain periods there is not enough room in the library, making students study in class. According to P.E. teacher Wayne Smaker, "This often leads to students working in the foyers of the boys and girl's locker rooms, on the football bleachers, and sometimes in the area between the two gyms."

The change this year does not seem to be well liked by the students and administrators involved. Sophomore Matt Saget said, "It's a hassle because first I have to go to P.E., take roll, and then

walk to the library and check in with the librarians. It would be a lot easier if I could just go to Study Hall."

Smaker explained, "It is our concern that there is no place for these students to go to. It is becoming a problem because it is hard for these students to work, and the P.E. instructors to monitor two places at once."

The Option Out Policy means that athletes who are involved in a sport have the privilege of transferring out of P.E. class during the season of their sport. Before this year students were able to go to Study Hall to get their work done. Due to the large ninth grade class, this is likely to continue for the next couple of years unless an alternative is found.

-James Sherwood



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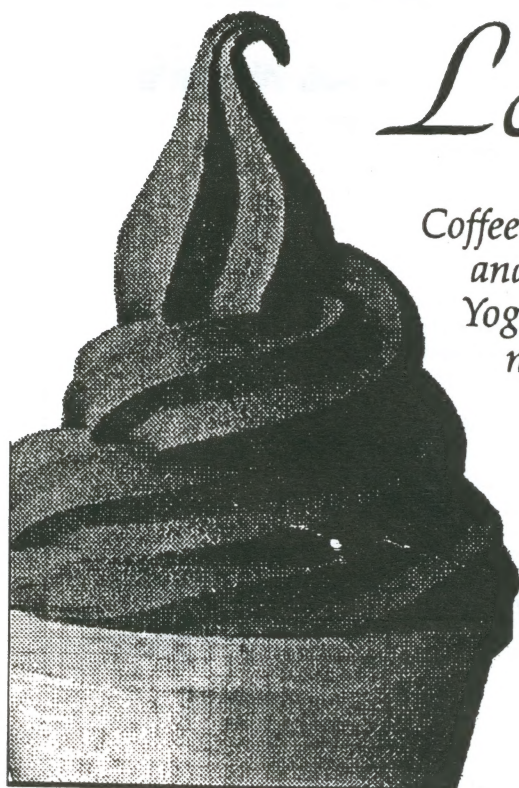
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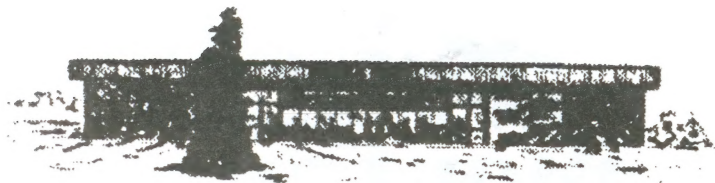
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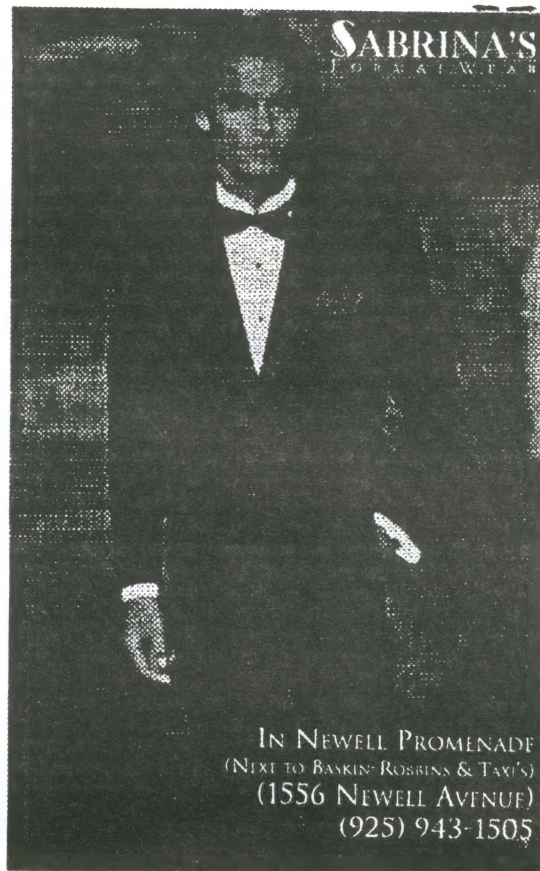
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PHOTOGRAPHY ROOM

Fumes Force Students Out of Darkroom

By Tim Shieh
Staff Writer

The photography class darkroom, deemed off limits to students since June due to alleged hazardous ventilation problems, was reopened for a few days on Oct. 9 before it was closed again on Oct. 20.

The darkroom was forced into a temporary shut down because a ventilation fan was never installed, resulting in the accumulation of noxious fumes, said photography teacher Kyle Wood.

"When I asked for a fan, they never really came up here to look to see what it was that I really wanted," Wood said. "They just assumed that there were smells in there (and) just put a hood over the chemicals."

The hood system brought chemical fumes around student's faces and failed to vent fumes outside. The system just circulated the contaminated air around Wood's photo room as well as Art teacher Karen Carbone's art room, said Wood.

Wood and Carbone wrote a letter to

the district concerning the ventilation system on June 18. They claimed they were at high risk of developing respiratory problems after being exposed to the fumes for long periods of time.

Originally, the ventilation system was supposed to be replaced by the beginning of this school year at a price of \$25,000 said Wood. Delays put off the completion date until Oct. 9. During the work period, students in the photography class suffered as the class became filled with dittos and worksheets, but no hands-on photography experiences, said students. The students had study hall for about three weeks instead.

Many students voiced their complaints that the photography classes became a waste of time. In response, Dr. Larry Larson, the District Assistant Superintendent of Business Services said that hiring an architect to draw up plans for a new ventilation system takes up a lot of time.

Larson is a leading proponent of a change from chemical to digital photog-

raphy. Larson said, "I think the future of photography and photography careers is digital." In response to that idea, however, Wood voiced concern that photography would lose its artistic quality if a switch to digital were made. "This is photography. If you went all digital, that would be a completely different curriculum. It wouldn't be as fun for kids who want to do art. (Digital) photography is not an art," she said.

The darkroom was closed again on Tuesday, Oct. 20, according to senior photography student Amanda Metcalf. The sink has to be finished and the second fan has to be installed, Wood said. Originally, "they put one fan in and they realized that that wasn't going to be enough. They had to go back and put in a new fan."

The darkroom was supposed to be finished "in three days" said Metcalf.

Wood said that the photography class would probably not be able to use the darkroom until Monday, Nov. 2. The photography class has had "two months of not working," Wood said, "I'm really frustrated."

NAKED MAN

Naked Man Haunts AHS Campus

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Principal Keith Schmidt released a school-wide bulletin to the fifth period classes on Oct. 27 warning students not to walk alone after hours on campus because of reports of a naked man exposing himself.

"It is advised that students should not be on campus, alone, when the school is not in operation," the bulletin said.

Not all students were persuaded by the bulletin. "No one is going to change anything they do...If (students) have to go to school in the dark, they will anyway," said an Acalanes senior.

Lafayette police officer Ken Whitlatch said the perpetrator is a tan, thin, white male between the ages of 18 and 25 (accounts dif-

fer), between 5'10" and 5'11", with short, dark, wavy or feathered hair. He said there is "no clothing description available."

One of the incidents reported occurred at a volleyball competition on Thursday Oct. 22. Although many students and parents witnessed the event, the police department has no suspects, but are looking at "people involved in that type of activity" by calling other police stations to see if they have experienced similar cases, said Whitlatch.

"Rumor has it that this person ran by several (sports) activities, and yet I only received one report. So either we are all used to seeing people run around that way, or people didn't notice, or it didn't happen," said Schmidt.

One senior can recall the "streaker" running by during a tennis practice in

August. "I'm not really scared because we are in Lafayette...It's sick that there is someone out there streaking, but at least it's not like someone got raped or someone got killed."

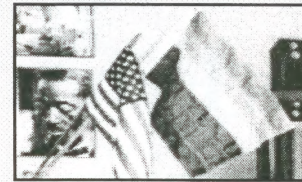
The other incident, the most recent, took place last Sunday when a student went to her locker after school hours to get her homework.

"There is no indication that anyone's safety is threatened, but we don't want it to seem like (streaking) is acceptable...It could raise an issue of safety," said Schmidt.

Police Chief Mike Ilg said that he does not believe this case is related to a similar one of a man found without pants on near the small gym last May because the description is different.

ACALANES BLUEPRINT FEATURE

INSIDE



Diversity
Flag
Waves in
Controversy
pg. 9

Blueprint

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PROP 10

Tobacco Taxing on Students Too

By Heather Klurfeld
Staff Writer

Proposition 10, the tax increase on tobacco products on the November 3 ballot, is hoped by legislators to minimize teenage smoking possibly even here at Acalanes.

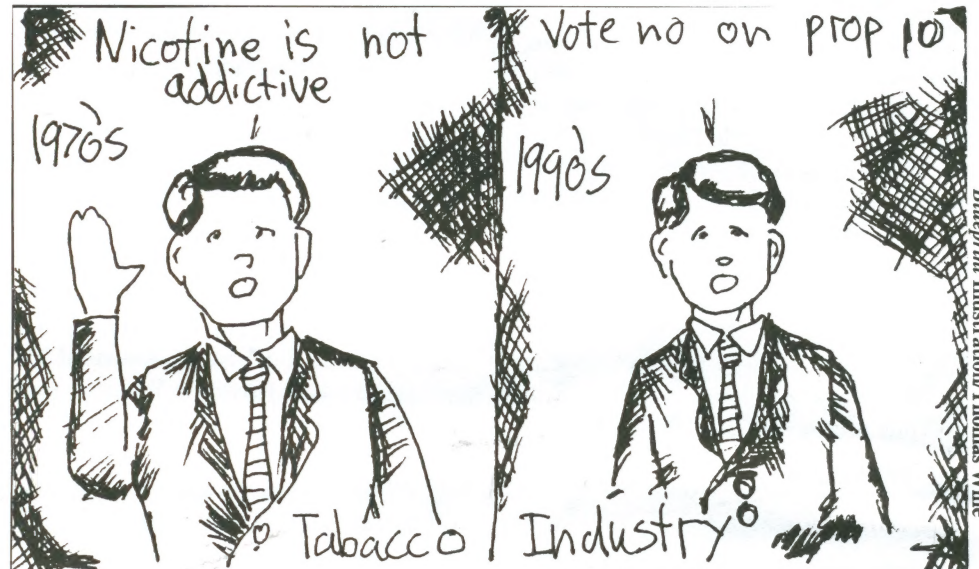
The bill would create a 50 cent tax on a package of cigarettes and other tobacco products, raising the existing tax passed in 1988 from 35 cents to 85. The revenue from this duty would be used in the education of young children and their mothers about the effects and dangers of smoking, including child health care.

In addition, the bill would create 59 state and county commissions to delegate the funds. The tobacco industry has claimed in campaign ads that the bulk of the money will not be spent on children but on the "hundreds of new appointees and bureaucrats." However actor Rob Reiner, the main supporter of the bill, claims that "unsalaried volunteers will administer Proposition 10 in your county."

Other famous names sponsoring Proposition 10 include actors Tom Arnold, Nicholas Cage, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, who have made generous contributions to this campaign.

Opposing the bill are major tobacco corporations including R.J. Reynolds, Phillip Morris Inc., and the U.S Tobacco Coalition. Their efforts to thwart the Proposition 10 campaign have included propaganda against the bill. The companies have spent approximately half of what the tobacco industry spent throughout the country to oppose the Senate bill, which they managed to defeat in July.

Most voters are not as concerned with the additional bureaucratic positions, but rather the aid for children. Sarah Reyes, candidate for the 31st District in Fresno,



said, "What about the kids? How are you going to stop them from smoking? If it was all money going to kids, I would support it." Reyes believes the bill should center on older children, most of whom are already exposed to smoking.

The price of a pack of twenty cigarettes will be raised from approximately \$2.50 to \$3. For those students who are heavy smokers, this tax can add up. However, one Acalanes smoker, who requested anonymity, believes this is not a great deal of money. "If they're going to smoke, they're going to smoke... Prop. 10 won't inhibit those who are addicted... those who need cigarettes won't stop," the student said.

Other Acalanes students are optimistic. Senior Lauren Hart believes "it's a good idea to get money to fight against smoking."

While Proposition 10 boasts that it can cut teenage smoking by 13%, the polls show that support has dropped from 69% in February to 56% in August. Despite the setbacks, Reiner believes "it'll be enough. Our message is very clear.

TEACHER AWARDS

"The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires," explains a news release sent out by the University of California, San Diego.

UCSD's third annual Teacher Recognition Program honored over 2,200 high school teachers from around the world, eight of whom were from Acalanes, for their positive academic influence.

Biology teacher Rose Marie Bauer, drama teacher Tom Eggertson, math teachers Rich Klier and Arnie Hoffman, music teacher Rick Meyer, history teacher Larry Freeman and English teachers Marshall Pfeiffer and Sarah Tunik were all recognized by the program for their inspiring teaching techniques.

Teachers were acknowledged based on nominations from former students, who are now enrolled at UCSD.

FLAG CONTROVERSY

Flags Wave In Controversy

By Hannah Hens-Piazza
News Editor

The thefts of two Acalanes teachers' flags, both symbols of radically different American viewpoints, bring to light the gray area of just where academic freedom should outweigh political correctness in the classroom.

Two potentially controversial flags were stolen from Acalanes classrooms. U.S. History teacher Larry Freeman's Confederate flag, a gift from a former student, was stolen last year after Grad Night, and English teacher Erik Seebass's diversity-promoting rainbow flag was discovered missing on Oct. 16. The thefts have led some to question what defines political correctness and whether or not First Amendment rights should be a license for unbridled academic freedom.

Freeman's flag, the so-called "Stars and Bars" representing the 13 Confederate states, had hung in his U.S. History classroom for at least three years before someone entered Freeman's room and took the flag, leaving a ransom note. The note accused Freeman of having the flag as a "racist icon" and stated that if Freeman wanted it back, he would have to "walk around in the shoes of a black man for one day."

"Apparently the kids or whoever thought the flag was un-PC because the Confederacy goes along with the idea of racism sometimes," said Freeman. "The flag also symbolizes 13 independent states."

Freeman defended the purpose of the flag, saying that it was there as a historical symbol. He added that he was always sure to explain to his students that he did not necessarily endorse all of the messages the flag conveys. "Students sometimes confuse the message with the messenger," he said.

Berkeley High School senior Hannah Sarvasy disagreed, saying that if the same flag was put up in a Berke-

ley classroom, there would be no debate as to what the connotation of the flag was, regardless of the teacher's views. "(Students) wouldn't stand for it. That flag is outwardly racist, even in a history classroom. But if a teacher did have enough guts to hang it in the room, he'd be killed," said Sarvasy.

"If you can't use racist symbols, you can't teach about racism," said Freeman, "so you can't let the PC-ness of one kid or even of 10 kids determine what you can and can't do." Otherwise, he added, there is a "tyranny of the minority."

Seebass's flag, a rainbow symbolizing diversity and often seen as a symbol promoting tolerance of homosexuality, was taken after being up for only a week. The flag had been put up in the room's flag holder after club day, when it was used for promotion of Project 10, Acalanes' Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual tolerance group.

"(Students) wouldn't stand for it. That flag is outwardly racist, even in a history classroom. But if a teacher did have enough guts to hang (the Confederate flag) in the room, he'd be killed."

**-Hannah Sarvasy
Berkeley High Senior**

Just days later, a student who was not in any of Seebass's classes complained to Seebass that the American flag should be up. "This classroom's never had an American flag in it since



English teacher Erik Seebass displays the diversity flag next to the American flag.

I've been in it," said Seebass. "People must have assumed that when I put (the Gay Rights flag) up, I was dissing the American flag, but I just didn't realize that other classrooms had them up."

Another student brought Seebass an American flag, which he hung next to the Diversity flag. Seebass had a substitute in his classes on Thursday, Oct. 15, and when he returned the next day, he noticed the Diversity flag was gone.

"I specifically talked about (the flag) on Tuesday (Oct. 13) and about what it meant and what it was a symbol of, and I felt like I was really open in my classes about letting everybody speak their minds and say anything that might upset them about it or why it might make them feel uncomfortable and that it was just expressing my tolerance and trying to keep a positive, safe atmosphere in the class," said Seebass.

Seebass saw his situation as different from Freeman's because the di-

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ELECTION ANALYSIS

Candidates Wallow in the Mud

By Nathalie de Leon
Staff Writer

"I wrote the Three Strikes bill with the help of Attorney General Dan Lungren... and now Davis says he fought for Three Strikes? In fact, he opposed our law..."

- Commercial by Lungren for Governor

"The LA Times called this a blatant distortion of Davis' record...What kind of man would campaign this way? Dan Lungren."

- Commercial by Davis for Governor

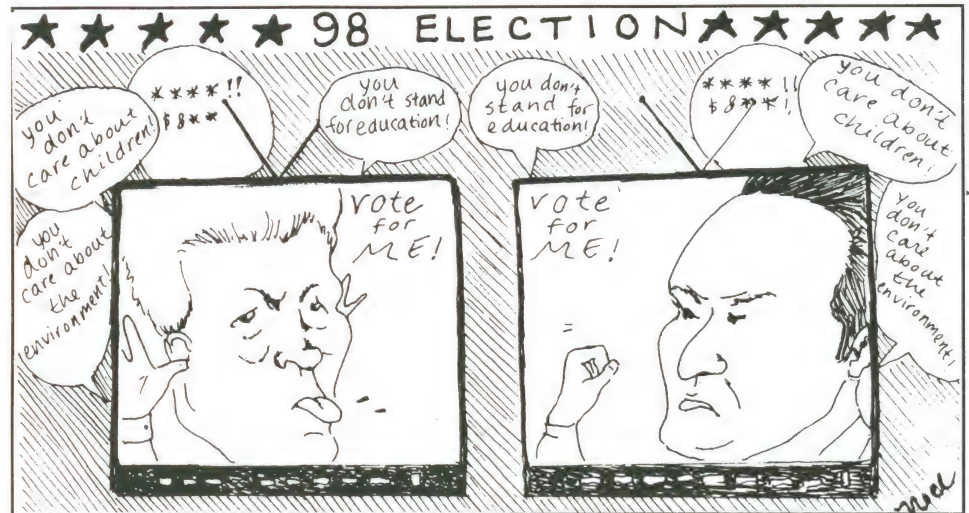
This year's gubernatorial candidates, Attorney General Dan Lungren and Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, have taken the mud-slinging to new levels.

Not only do they distort wording of policy, their commercials frequently contradict each other. Lungren's throwing mud that says Davis is soft on crime, and he's doing it with experts. Davis is catapulting it back with newspapers backing him up. Who's telling the truth?

Both of them. If you listen closely to the commercials, you can hear a tiny discrepancy. It is true that Davis opposed the Three Strikes Law initially. He was a strong advocate against the Three Strikes Bill co-written by Dan Lungren. However, another Three Strikes bill was written by the state district attorneys, which Davis did support. However, critics of this bill say it was still too soft on crime.

Another discrepancy is the issue of abortion. Davis is pro-choice, his campaign focusing mainly on cases of rape and incest. He claims that Lungren is not. Lungren is indeed a staunch pro-lifer, but during his term as a senator, he supported several bills which made exceptions for cases of rape and incest. However, abortion is a FEDERAL issue, and the state has no jurisdiction over it. Why on earth are candidates for California governor talking about it when they can't control it?

One issue which both candidates seem to be telling the truth about is education. Interestingly enough, these truths only involve their opinions, not their previous records. Like most Democrats, Davis believes in increasing funding for schools and placing more restrictions on the subject mat-



Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

ters by specific appropriation of funds. Like most Republicans, Lungren believes in reviewing the system and fixing the funding problems without increasing spending. Though the mud is piled high and deep in this area, neither candidate has really exploited the other's record. Positions can always be faked, and we won't know what this mud smells like until we see the bills that come out of the next governor.

Davis has attacked Lungren time and again on the guns issue, but fails to state his position, with the exception of a short, vague statement that he will help protect children from guns and fight against assault weapons.

Ironically, one of the issues that will play a key role in this election is the candidates stance on state employees, which has not come up during the debates. Davis wants raises, and Lungren wants to dissolve unions and cut pay. Both candidates have not made this issue a main point in their campaigns. This is probably because Davis does not want to promise anything he can't deliver in the future, and because Lungren's stand will hurt him with the voters. Perhaps there isn't any mudslinging here because it would involve actual facts and promises—something most politicians simply can't handle.

Senatorial candidates Senator Barbara Boxer and State Treasurer Matt Fong have showed different campaigning techniques from their gubernatorial counterparts. Their

commercials do not directly contradict each other. Rather, they avoid the issues the other is addressing.

Boxer is hitting Fong on the guns, and Fong is hitting Boxer on education. We have yet to see a rebuttal to either blow.

The main source of muck in this race is the race issue. Fong uses the recurring theme of "the American dream." He appeals to Asian-Americans in his fight against Affirmative Action, and he constantly speaks of how his mother fought through the barriers of racism. But on one standpoint, Fong is more American than Boxer, as he is a 5th generation American while Boxer is only a 1st generation American.

The only candidates with little to no mud-slinging are the third parties. Of course, this is due mainly to the fact that they aren't included in the debates, and never get a chance to pull out their slingshots. However, they do try. Like David versus Goliath they campaign with no money and still manage to get some propaganda out there.

Sources for candidate viewpoints include the California Voter Information Guide, televised debates, commercials and candidate websites.

CANDIDATE OVERVIEW

How the Candidates Look After a Bath

Senatorial Candidates

Matt Fong (GOP):

On education: he wants vouchers, charter schools, and more local control of schools. Every child will be forced to take diagnostic tests to graduate high school. Teachers will receive merit pay, and teacher tenure will be cut or loosened. Wants to create "Affirmative Opportunities," which would evaluate people on socio-economic needs, not race and gender.

On crime: he wants to end early prison releases for violent offenders. He thinks that trigger locks should be made with every new gun. He supports the 10-20-life principle, and Three Strikes.

On foreign policy: he thinks we should put more money into defense and stop missile sales to "rouge nations." He also doesn't want US tax dollars going to international bureaucracies such as the IMF.

On taxes: he is proposing a new flat tax because he believes that the current tax system is too complicated.

Ophe C. Beltran (Peace and Freedom):

On crime: she wants to see a full integration of illegal immigrants into society so that they aren't illegal. She opposes the helmet laws.

On foreign policy: she believes in imposing economic and political sanctions on violators of human rights such as Turkey, maintaining a "non-interventionist foreign policy."

Ted Brown (Libertarian):

On crime: we need to end our "failed 'War on Drugs'" and legalize them.

On taxes: he wants to get rid of them and dissolve the IRS completely.

Timothy R. Eric (Reform):

On education: he believes education will reform when all economic policies are reformed. He is currently a teacher and a school principal.

On foreign policy: he wants to maintain adequate levels of national defense through funding.

H. Joseph Perrin Sr. (American Independent):

On education: he generally states that on all issues he wants to return most of the control to local government.

On foreign policy: he believes in no spending whatsoever of tax dollars on international organizations like NATO.

On taxes: he promises to keep our taxes within the country and returning more control to local entities rather than federal ones.

Barbara Boxer (Democratic):

On education: she wants to retain Affirmative Action. She also wants reduced class sizes and after school programs to keep kids off the street. She also wants "higher academic standards."

On crime: she wants safety locks to be sold on guns, and increase the number of police officers on the streets.

On foreign policy: she wants to stop weapon sale to countries that are "aggressors" towards the U.S., and she wants to cut 8 billion dollars out of the defense budget.. She wants to continue funding the IMF.

On taxes: she is proposing a \$500/child tax credit.

Gubernatorial Candidates

Nathan E. Johnson (American Independent):

On education: He also wants English to be the basic language of instruction, and he wants to cut down on any ESL programs.

On crime: he opposes restrictions on firearms, is pro-death penalty, and is pro-restitution.

On taxes: he wants to decrease the size of government by decreasing taxes.

On state employees: he fully supports unions, as he is a member of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1309.

Dan Hamburg (Green):

On education: He believes in increasing education spending

On crime: he wants to legalize hemp and marijuana, and abolish the death penalty.

On taxes: He calls for universal health

care, and "an end to corporate welfare" by cutting corporate subsidies and raising taxes on corporations.

On state employees: he supports unions.

Dan Lungren (GOP):

On education: he believes in vouchers, charter schools, and reforming teacher tenure. He wants competency tests for teachers as well as merit incentives. He wants to renew local control and reduce class sizes.

On crime: He is pro-death penalty, and believes in continuing the fight against drugs. He is fuzzy on gun control, but promises to fight minor possession of weapons.

On taxes: he promises to reduce taxes. He has not come up with any elaborate plans yet, but so far, he has suggested getting rid of bureaucratic offices to regain taxes.

On state employees: he wants to dissolve many unions such as the CTA, and he wants to keep pay the same for state workers.

Gloria Estela La Riva (Peace and Freedom):

On education: she would retain affirmative action and bilingual education.

On crime: she wants to end "mass incarceration of the poor" and the death penalty.

On taxes: she believes in socialism and taxing corporations instead of workers.

On state employees: she is very pro-union and pro-worker.

Steve W. Kubby (Libertarian):

On education: he will "give your children better education" by increasing competition.

On crime: he believes in taking a socio-political approach rather than a law-oriented approach to resolve our crime problems.

On taxes: he wants to abolish income tax.

Gray Davis (Democratic):

On education: he opposes vouchers and charter schools. He believes in giving teachers more benefits and upholding their tenure. Education is his "top priority."

On crime: he is for the death penalty.

On taxes: he promises to lower them, but has yet to propose a method of doing so.

On state employees: he believes in defending the unions and pay/benefit increases.

NEW TEACHERS

Thomas Makes Teaching a Family Affair

By Blake Koelmel
Staff Writer

Devoted, enthusiastic, and vibrant with new ideas describes Janet Thomas in a few words. One of the 11 new teachers here at Acalanes this year, Thomas has taken on the challenge of teaching chemistry and AP chemistry with more affinity than the helium atom has for electrons. "I have always enjoyed chemistry. In college I took quite a bit of chemistry and then also did graduate work in chemistry."

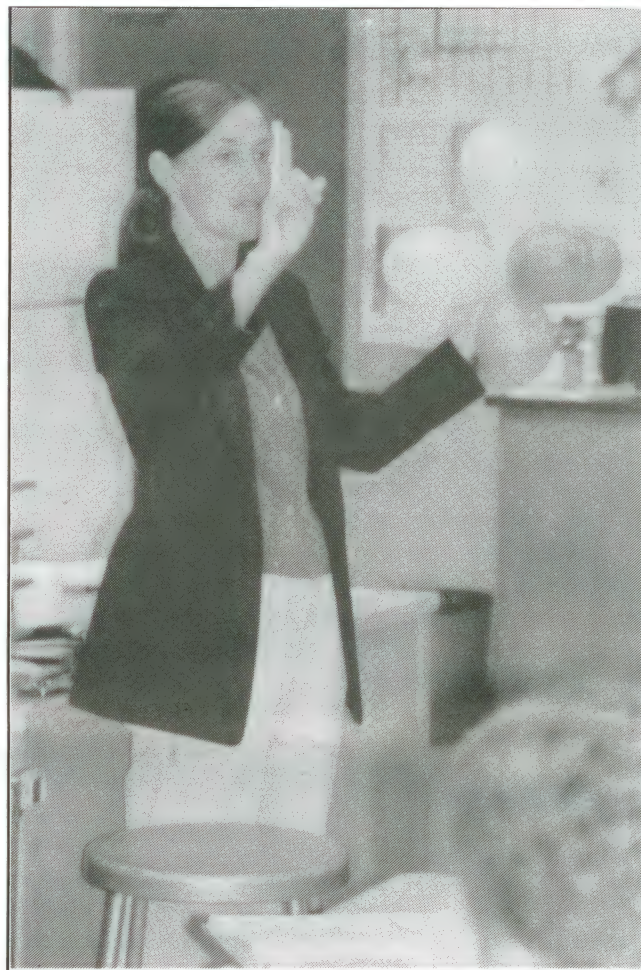
A Stanford graduate, Thomas spent two years studying chemistry and has a major in "human biology." She later got her Master's degree in science education and did graduate work in analytical chemistry. Thomas has taught math, physics, and chemistry over the years in a variety of different schools, including UC Berkeley, so teaching is not a new experience for her. Apparently she has been charged about electrons "as both a student and a teacher" but declined to admit that Chemistry is her favorite subject to teach. Thomas believes that Math, Chemistry and Physics are so closely related to each other that it's impossible for her to pick a favorite and feels that these subjects ought to be taught in "a more integrated approach" in the school curriculum.

With this new approach in mind, Thomas has been tackling the challenge of teaching here at Acalanes with enough enthusiasm and energy to send a valence electron into a higher orbital. She enjoys working with the students here, and says she "feels at home." She also added that, "people have been very helpful, the students are great, and I feel that it is a very professional staff." Thomas does, however, have a daughter at Acalanes so as a parent, she is already familiar with the Acalanes methods. Also, her husband, Ramsay Thomas, has been teaching history and chemistry here so as Thomas put it, "it's not a totally new environment."

For Thomas, however, there is one new aspect of teaching that she has not

dealt with before. This year, her daughter is a student in one of her AP Chemistry classes. For some, this could be a potentially awkward situation but Thomas and her daughter Mary, who is a junior, agree that it is a mutually beneficial arrangement. Mary says she can usually understand what her mom is saying and also enjoys the luxury of being able to ask for help during more convenient after-school hours. Thomas, on the other hand, explains that she can get feedback on her teaching methods. "There are a couple of times when I've asked her if something I've done is effective or if she had any questions. In that sense, it might be helpful to have her in class to act as a mirror. As far as comfort level, to be quite honest, I am enjoying it."

One could say that each element has its own personality; whether it's malleability, corrosiveness, or burns a different color flame. With this in mind, Thomas chose three elements that she thought best describes herself, her husband, and her daughter. Oxygen, Thomas said, best represents Mary, for oxygen is very reactive and is the "sustainer of life" as the air she breathes. For Ramsay, Thomas's husband, she chose aluminum "which is durable, light-weight but very strong, reactive but stable, and burns with a brilliant light." For herself, Thomas chose copper. As copper is a great conductor of energy, Thomas feels that she also "channels energy" as a teacher.



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Kuo

Chemistry teacher Janet Thomas uses balloons to help demonstrate electron configurations.

Thomas views herself as a team player, as copper is often used in alloys, as well as flexible and malleable, but not corrosive.

With such qualities as flexibility and malleability, Thomas is a new teacher at Acalanes with an open mind and definitely brings with her a different perspective of chemistry and life in general. As all teachers do, she hopes to transmit these views to her students so they can see Chemistry's "real-world meaning" and its elements in everyday living. As Thomas put it, "My mission is to serve the academic community here as well as I can, but more importantly, to act as a mentor and a coach for students."

CLASS RIVALRY

Homecoming Changes Reduce Rivalry

Andria Flakoll

Feature Editor

In the past, Acalanes' homecomings have focused on unending opportunities for class rivalry while neglecting the need for school unity. However with this year's requirement for on-campus float building, the rivalry was significantly reduced.

"While it's fine to have competitions and pride in your class, you reach a point where you start to cross the line and there's no concept of school unity," said Principal Keith Schmidt. "The bottom line is its supposed to be safe and fun."

On-campus float building was required this year after incidents involving off-campus property damage and excessive "egging" a year ago. "It's just, callous disregard for people's property, and basically it was the last straw," said Schmidt.

It had been increasingly hard to find parents willing to have their homes used, said Schmidt, "In fact, while two of last year's homes were located in gated communities, the Home Owner's Association refuses to let us come back."

Safety concerns played a key role in the decision for on-campus float building. "It got the point where a couple years ago (1996) one group heard that another group was coming to get them, so they took their car down and literally put it sideways and blockaded the road, so the police came along...then you have a problem there," said Schmidt.

The leadership class hoped that on-campus float building would promote school unity. "It worked for Campo last year...having them all there is like a school function. It wasn't just like your hanging out with your senior friends. Your hanging out with everybody, said ASB President Morgan Miles.

Miles made a speech at Monday's rally stressing that the classes



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Members of the senior powderpuff team prepare to launch an attack against the sophomores during a practice at Acalanes on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

should be competing against each other, but that Acalanes is a team in itself. When Miles warned that egging would mean the end of homecoming this year as well as next year, many seniors replied with heckles and jeers.

Yet, even though some broken eggs were in the vicinity of floats after construction had ended. He believes this year's homecoming was a success. "I think overall it's gone pretty well," Schmidt says that he predicts float building will be on-campus next year due to the drop in class rivalry.

While some students considered egging, many were convinced not to by campus leadership. Rally Board Member Jake Zarah says that Miles' speech had an impact. Zarah said that several members of the football team decided not to egg, fearing suspension from school and the football game.

Rally Board Members, who organize homecoming activities, tried to

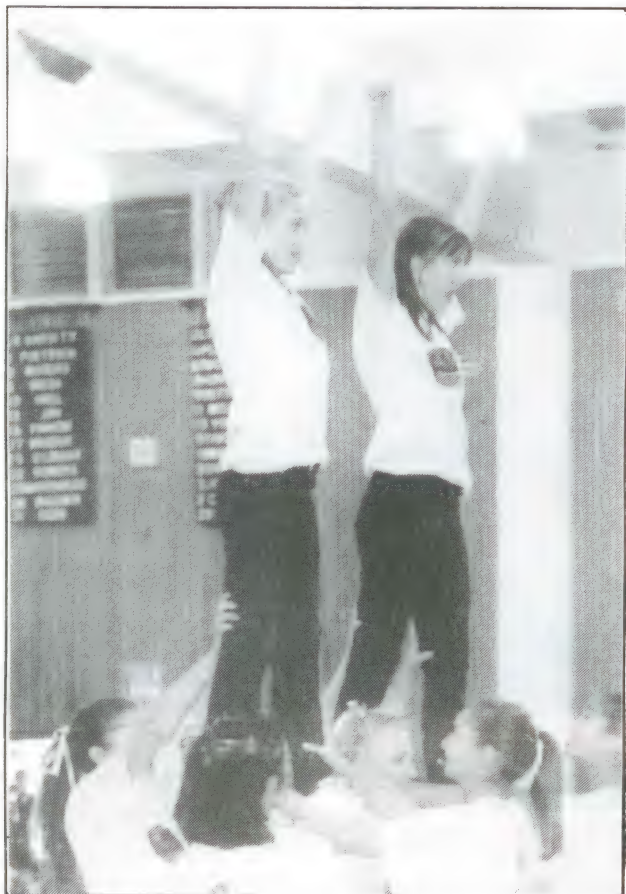
focus on raising class participation and school spirit. "I don't think that's (school rivalry) going to go away because it's on campus, but hopefully it will be cut down," said Rally Board Head Junior Theresa Collins. She hoped that Friday's Barbecue would help bring the school together.

However, quelling class rivalry may be hard since the leadership class has sponsored numerous events encouraging the trend of class rivalry, including class skits, posters, and lip-syncs. Competitions of all kinds have been a lasting tradition at Acalanes, but then again, so has the overwhelming amount of class rivalry. "I think it's healthy and fun unfortunately people do take it a bit too far," said Miles.

On Thursday, Oct. 15 the sophomore powderpuff team held a practice at Stanley. Several senior powderpuff players poured ketchup, mustard, and chocolate sauce on the play-

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Homecoming 1998: A Photo Retrospective



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Climbing to new highs, the Junior Varsity Cheerleading squad proudly performs in the Homecoming assembly for the senior class.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Luke and Lance (alias seniors Morgan Miles and Dave Miskie) entertain students with dance tips and workout strategies.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

The Varsity Cheerleading Squad rises to the call of the bat signal to cheer on the senior class, whose Homecoming theme was Batman.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

The enthusiastic freshman class officers excitedly sit in a convertible after their "day in the sun" in the Homecoming Parade down Mt. Diablo Blvd.



Blueprint Photo/Will McCosker

Students and faculty were greeted with the aftermath of crepe paper, glue, and wood chips from the Homecoming floats on the morning of Friday, Oct.23.

FLAG CONTROVERSY

Continued from pg. 9

versity flag is solely promotional of tolerance. The Confederate flag, on the other hand, can be interpreted in many different ways, and Seebass said he could easily understand how Freeman's flag might be seen as a racist symbol. Seebass bought a new diversity flag and hung it next to the American flag.

Freeman acknowledged that his flag might be seen as more than a historical symbol at first glance. "I had an African-American parent come up to me at Back-to-School Night a few years back, and he asked me why I had the (Confederate) flag in my room. I explained to him its purpose and that I did not support racism or anything, and he understood," said Freeman.

Freeman and Seebass are just two of many teachers at Acalanes that feel academic freedom should outweigh political correctness at times. English teacher Liz Pagano has a poster in her classroom displaying various books and magazines that have

been censored. Some of the photos include the covers of *Catcher in the Rye*, *Playboy*, and a dictionary. Pagano said she has had students question the poster in the past, and she explained what it meant to her.

"One of the things that bothers me the most is when people tell us what we can and cannot read...If we censor one thing, then we'll have to censor it all," said Pagano.

Freeman, Seebass, and Pagano all agree that in situations where a group of students feel deeply offended by something in the classroom, they would be willing to reconsider the necessity of the item and talk to the student, though they are not required to by law.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), California has a code that enables complete academic freedom of students and teachers.

Principal Keith Schmidt also encourages freedom of expression in the classroom, and he said that Freeman's Confederate flag was justified by its aca-

demic purpose. "To this day, no war we've fought has had casualties to match the American Civil War, so clearly it was a cataclysmic event in American history. One side of that event is represented by the Confederate flag....To my way of thinking, this is a pure and simple case of theft," said Schmidt.

In situations where there was not as clear a connection between the symbol and the context, more students would be inclined to complain, he added.

Schmidt also said Seebass's flag was an appropriate symbol for the classroom in that it promotes tolerance of all races, religions, and sexual preferences.

Schmidt said the school tries to hang an American flag in every classroom. He added that if a teacher intentionally took down the flag, he or she would be required by the school to hang it back up. The ACLU, on the other hand, said that the school cannot punish teachers in any way for refusing to hang the flag, and policies can only be attempted.

CLASS RIVALRY

Continued from pg. 13

ers. Before practice was over fights broke out, names were called, clothes were ripped, and players left practice covered in condiments according to witnesses.

The Wednesday before, as sophomore and senior powderpuff teams scrimmaged, the seniors came throwing water balloons, and chased the sophomores into bathrooms until they were allowed out. The teams eventually dueled it out at tackle football, resulting in fights and even a hospital visit for one girl who sustained a mild concussion.

"The whole thing started because the sophomore girls wrote in the end-zone on the football field '01 Chicks, which pissed off the football team, who in turn riled up their senior girls. It was an upper class-men against sophomore thing," said senior Julie Cellini.

When homecoming debuted so did the warring powderpuff teams. Girls ran around the school shouting phras-

es like "Kill the freshmen" and "I hate sophomores". In response to these actions leadership advisor Rob Keillor said, "I get disgusted over that. I mean

"How can you promote school unity when you are going against another class?"

-Katie Burroughs

I know it's tradition, but I don't think it presents a positive way to express your pride in your school by cutting down another class."

The sophomores ran up and started pushing the juniors who were all huddled up having our post game

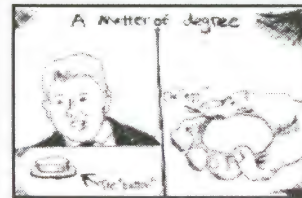
talk", said junior Katie Burroughs who thinks that class rivalry is what homecoming is about. "I think school unity is what the homecoming game is all about because you're going against another school, but when you have the powderpuff game, how can you promote school unity when your going against the other classes?"

Their negative acts were cause for renewed concern for Schmidt. "I think the jury's still out on powderpuff. There is the possibility of injury." Schmidt also indicated that while there are no official powderpuff practices, they are held and consequently considered school events, said Schmidt.

Some students see rivalry with other schools as a healthy alternative to inter-school class rivalry that discourages school unity. I think instead of playing our own classes in powderpuff, we should play other schools with homecomings the same week. Our juniors could play Las Lomas juniors and then it's more like school unity, said junior Jessica Reid.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT OPINION

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SUPERINTENDENT RACE

What's the Matta' with Matta Tuchman

By Rand Dadasovich
Co-Editor-in-Chief

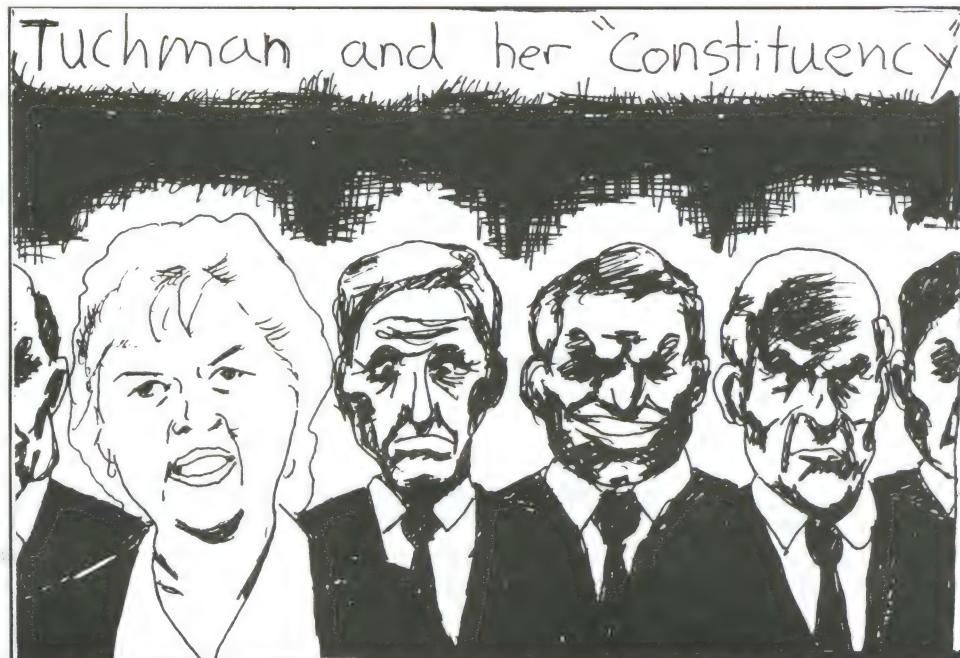
With the elections just days away, California voters will be faced with many tough decisions. Ironically, it is the indecision of one candidate, Gloria Matta Tuchman, that may make at least one choice a lot easier. In fact, Tuchman is such a poor candidate that *Blueprint* doesn't think twice about endorsing her opponent, Delaine Eastin.

When Tuchman ran unsuccessfully for California Superintendent of Education four years ago, she was firmly against the adoption of school vouchers. This year, she is again attempting to win the position, but has suddenly flip-flopped her position on vouchers. Matta Tuchman's top six campaign contributors are all ultra-conservative millionaires and forceful proponents of school vouchers.

It doesn't take a detective to realize that Matta Tuchman's vacillation may be motivated more by money than policy. In total, Tuchman has received \$726,000, over 94% of her cash contributions, from six voucher supporters. In fact, five of those same men gave over \$757,000 to the Prop. 174 campaign five years ago.

The issue of school vouchers has become a divisive factor for many Californians in this traditionally nonpartisan superintendent race. Vouchers were first defeated at the polls in 1993 when California voters struck down Prop. 174. The supporters of 174, an initiative which would have given parents a \$2,600 voucher for each student attending a private school, were primarily religious conservatives and libertarians. Fortunately, voters realized that the logic behind the voucher philosophy—that competition would force public schools to improve their standards—was foolish.

After more failed attempts to get vouchers back on the ballot in subsequent years,



Blueprint Photo/Thomas Wille

it seems as if the backers of Prop. 174, including Wal-Mart heir John Walton, have simply changed tactics. Turning away from ballot initiatives and towards candidates, John Walton has contributed \$25,000 to Tuchman's campaign.

The second greatest contributor, wealthy banking heir Howard Ahmanson, gave Matta Tuchman \$175,000 through his private foundation in Orange County. This from a man who served on the board of, and gave over \$700,000 to, the right-wing Chalcedon Foundation, a Christian Reconstructionist group whose leader believes that the death penalty should extend to homosexuals and adulterers.

But it seems that Tuchman has a few prejudices of her own. As part of a recent ad campaign, she criticized Eastin for receiving campaign contributions from, among others, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and three lesbian leaders. Tuchman claims that she targeted these minor-

ities inadvertently. You make the call on that one.

At a recent debate between the two Superintendent candidates, when asked of her connection to Ahmanson, Matta Tuchman claimed she had never even spoken him. To her dismay, Delaine Eastin responded: "For a man who gave you \$175,000, you at least could have given the man a call to thank him, Gloria."

But the source of her campaign finances is not the only thing that makes her unsuitable. Tuchman was the co-author of Prop. 227, the initiative to end bilingual education in California's public schools. We have to wonder just how effective Tuchman would be in working with the state educators, since nearly all teachers were against her proposition.

So be decisive this Tuesday and vote for incumbent Delaine Eastin. After all, her number one campaign contributor is the California Teacher's Association.

PRO/CON

Proposition Eight Under The Microscope

Sam Cunningham

Staff Writer

Proposition 8, California's new attempt to streamline and improve education in the state, could bring necessary change to our education system if passed.

Proposition 8 and its authors are being accused of using the class size reduction aspect as "bait" to get voters to pass the bill. These critics are saying that class size reduction is already in place but class size reduction is not permanent. If the economy takes a dive, the Legislature will have to slash spending somewhere. But if Proposition 8 passes, class size reduction can not be cut.

With drug use at an amazing 75% in the Acalanes School District, we personally know what a problem drug use on campus. If Proposition 8 passes the punishment for possession of any illegal drugs is mandatory expulsion. Stiffer punishments and more crackdowns will make every student think twice before he brings drugs onto campus and into contact with other students.

Proposition 8 has a clause in it that makes an honest attempt to establish a real relationship between parents and the school their children attend. Each school would be provided with its own council made up of parents as well as teachers that would decide on what curriculum would be best for the students as well as how the money should be spent. There are 8,000 schools in California and therefore there would be 8,000 separate councils. Left wingers and the liberal media, like our very own San Francisco Chronicle, seem to think that this is more bureaucracy. The last time I checked I concluded this: parents are not bureaucrats.

The area in which Proposition 8 is taking the most heat is the creation of a Chief Inspector of Public Schools. This Chief Inspector and his staff would be responsible for personally inspecting and ranking every last public school in California every other year. How better to direct the resources of the education budget? Handing out the same amount of money to Acalanes and Oakland Tech makes no sense when it is obvious which school needs more funding. These rankings are ever so important in an educational system with such a variety of needs.

Opponents ask what will pay for this Chief Inspector. Democrats seem to think that teacher salaries are going to be cut and no new books for the children will be provided, so some bureaucrat can receive a huge salary. Not true. All one has to do is look up Proposition 8 in the handbook all registered voters receive and under the "cost" heading on page 35 it will reveal that "the initiative (Prop. 8) directs the state to support the Office of The Chief Inspector by shifting funds that otherwise pay for State Department of Education staff and expenses."

Proposition 8 must pass if we are to have comprehensive education reform in California. The Democrats and the California Parent-Teacher Association may feign protest over "financial" and "bureaucratic" problems but as I stressed before: these problems are either irrelevant or simply don't exist.

By Damon Diederich

Staff Writer

Proposition 8 is an initiative named the "Permanent Class Size Reduction and Educational Opportunities Act of 1998." While Prop. 8 will reduce class size this is just a spoonful of sugar to make the rest of the bitter medicine go down.

Sponsored by Governor Pete Wilson, Prop. 8 is an attempt at reforming California's anemic education system. Though our shabby education system needs reform badly, this is not the way to do it. There are too many devils lurking within the legal woodwork.

Even though class size reduction is supposedly the main point of this initiative, Prop. 8 changes nothing regarding funding the classroom size reduction. While there have been untrue rumors that Prop. 8 would start a fund to reduce K-3 class size, in reality, Prop. 8 just ensures that funding for class size reduction that we already have in the education budget stays there. The money spent on this in troubled times would take away funds from other parts of the school system, causing 4-12 classrooms to suffer and balloon in size.

Prop. 8 calls for a parent-teacher site council for every school. The new parent-teacher council would have control over the curriculum of the school. This would invariably cause a vast rift in what the curriculum of each school would consist of; something that is currently a large problem in our disjointed education system. Each parent would have his/her own educational agenda for their child. The different personal agendas of each parent would make it nearly impossible for the site councils to form a cohesive governing body for our schools.

Proposition 8 calls for the establishment of strict punishment for drug possession. While the current system allows administrators some leeway in dealing with drug possession, Prop. 8 calls for mandatory expulsion of students possessing drugs, regardless of extenuating circumstances. Instead of being suspended and given a chance to clean up, Prop. 8 makes it one strike and you're out for good. Good-bye sunny Lafayette, hello Juvenile Hall Reform School!

Most importantly, Prop. 8 would establish an "Office of Chief Inspector of Public Schools." This inspector would be appointed by the Governor, making it a politically, rather than educationally, motivated office.

The inspector and his staff would have no limits on salaries and would be in power for ten years. This "Education/Bureaucracy Czar" would only examine each of California's 8000 schools every other year and rank them in several areas of educational performance. The Inspector's office would have no checks and balances—no other legislative body could control this monster of wasteful, ineffective spending.

Overall, Prop. 8 would create a labyrinth of hurdles guaranteed for educational gridlock. While there is a way to reform schools, Prop. 8 is not it.

CHAT WITH CHUCK

Global Egging Crisis Worsens

By Charlie Eaton
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Homecoming week began this year with Powderpuff football players hidden under makeup and goose-stepping down the hallways while yelling war cries like "Kill the freshman!" and "We hate sophomores!" Unsurprisingly, the rest of the week followed suit.

Just imagine what our world would be like if nation states behaved like the classes at Acalanes during homecoming. The world would be one chaotic place.

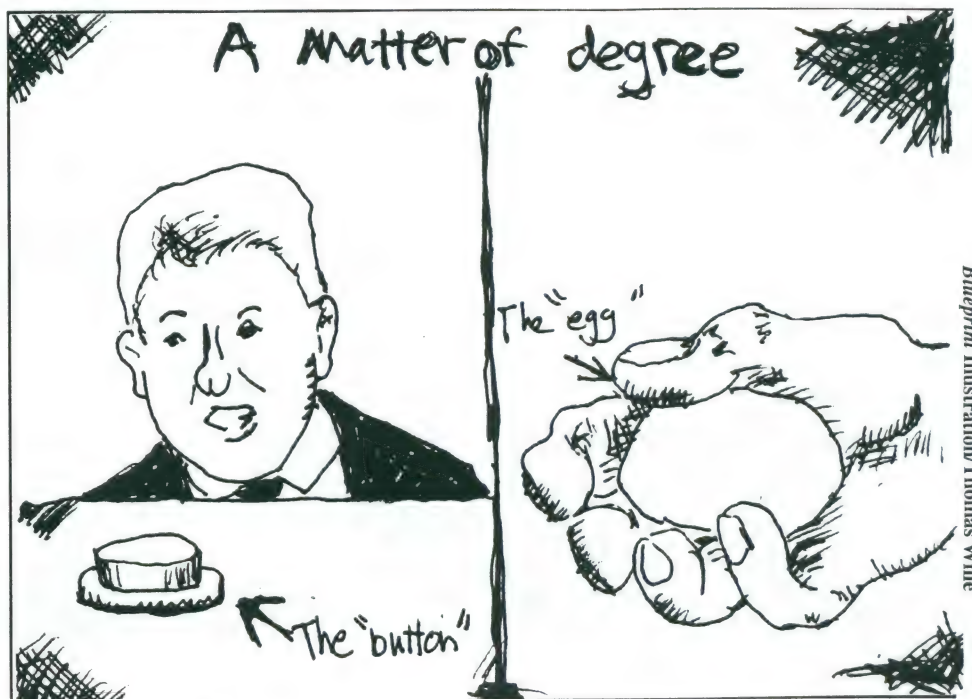
For instance, what if the United States paraded around like the Senior class, as though it owned the whole world? Our CIA would be like some terrorist agency, toppling the governments of countries who don't let our corporations inside their borders. Wait a minute... that sounds a lot like the CIA.

Well, that's only one example.

And Saddam certainly could learn from the sophomore class which behaves like a third world country that just got its hands on a bunch of nukes. The sophomores could show that nutty Iraqi how to react when the UN starts to lean on him next time. Fortunately, the sophomores and the juniors only had eggs when they faced off last week. If only that were the case with Pakistan and India.

Of course, you can't compare the freshman to any nation. The scrawny but eager bunch toils all week like a bunch of GAP sweat shop employees as though they have a chance to win homecoming. A freshman homecoming victory seems about as likely as Mexico taking over the computer industry. Like the US, I mean the seniors, would ever let a third world country, I mean the freshman, have a chance at self advancement in this lifetime.

Well, maybe the world is a juvenile, chaotic place. William Golding certainly had a point when he ironically concluded *Lord of the Flies* with a naval officer saving Ralph and his buddies from their war games. Principal Schmidt sure doesn't ship Acalanes' culprits off to war. The armed service recruiters take care of that.



Blueprint Illustration/Thomas Wille

In fact, Acalanes might even be a step ahead of the international community. At least, the school has an accountable student president in Morgan Miles.

Bill, "what do the polls say?," Clinton should have been taking notes when Miles addressed the student body at the beginning of the week. Miles responded to last year's homecoming "terrorism" by courageously denouncing egging and destructive class competition in spite of opposition and mockery. Clinton would have just rambled on about how we could use the remains of the freshman float to make omelets.

Meanwhile, our hard-boiled Clinton responded to terrorism by bombing a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant which cut off the country's supply of medication for malaria. Here at Acalanes, that would be comparable to the student government destroying a class' float because a few students hurled henfruit at the school.

And look what Clinton's got to show for it. Terrorism has in no way been checked, and the alleged culprit of terror, Osama bin Laden, is still at large. Meanwhile, Acalanes significantly cut back on homecoming mischief through moralistic leadership and moving float-building from students'

houses to the campus. Mental note, Bill, fighting terror with terror doesn't work.

To be sure, Acalanes doesn't arm the classes either like the United States arms unstable foreign governments. Ninety percent of US military aid goes to military dictatorships according to the film *Arms for the Poor*. I think quite a bit less than 90% of spending on homecoming goes to buying eggs, firecrackers, and spudguns for the classes.

Miles also confided in me that ASB doesn't allow Seniors to sell eggs to lower classmen like the US allows corporations such as Boeing, Dow Chemical, and General Electric to sell weapons to other countries. Even our district cafeteria has placed an embargo on milk sales by refusing to sell more than two milks at a time to students. Moreover, Miles laughed at the idea of allowing seniors to just give eggs away to lower classmen as the US permits corporations like Chevron and Royal Dutch Shell to give money and weapons to military dictatorships like Nigeria.

In any case, there are two lessons to be learned here. For the world: eggs are better than nuclear bombs. For Acalanes: make peace, not class war.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students Want to Change Homecoming

ENVIRONMENT VS. HOMECOMING

Balloons Shouldn't be Released for Homecoming

Dear Editor,

I couldn't help noticing the negligence toward the environment during the Homecoming game against Dublin. After halftime, the Dons broke through a banner between the goal posts, and about 20 balloons were released into the air. Although the sight of the football team bursting through the goal in an explosion of balloons evoked feelings of pride and glory for the "Blue and White," it was sad to realize what a callous disregard we have for the environment. I

thought we had learned our lesson about protecting our wildlife a long time ago. We all become outraged when an oil leak threatens our coasts but say nothing when latex nooses are allowed to fly for our own enjoyment. How ironic that something that captures our attention for a few seconds will eventually capture the life of some defenseless animal. Lafayette may be a cultural bubble, but it doesn't prevent our gross displays of ignorance from affecting the rest of the world.

-Sarah Wright

HOMECOMING CHANGES

Make the Best of Homecoming

Dear Editor,

Being the week after Homecoming, there's been a lot of talk about last week's events. While talking to people, I realized that there seemed to be an overall disappointment in Homecoming this year. I understand the fact that float-building was on campus this year definitely took some "fun" out of Homecoming, but it doesn't seem like people are seeing the big picture (the big picture being that float building on campus is here permanently). Yes, I know it's a little pessimistic, but that's the truth. The leadership class has done everything in its power to preserve float-building off campus, and Mr. Schmidt doesn't seem to want to budge. So, I think that instead of everyone focusing on how terrible Homecoming was, people should try and focus on getting involved and making the best they can out of float-building on campus next year. Then, maybe, it won't be so bad.

-Cicely Andree

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Blueprint Wants to Hear From Its Readers

Blueprint prides itself in providing a voice for students, parents, teachers, and all other members of the Acalanes community. However, the paper has lacked letters to the editor in past issues. This issue, we were pleased to receive two letters to the editor. We would like such letters to the editor to become a precedent. Blueprint welcomes anyone to write to the paper in regards to disagreements with articles or

editorials, copy errors, or anything else.

Please mail letters to:

**Acalanes Blueprint
1200 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549**

Please deliver letters to:

**Room 209 at Acalanes
High School**

Please fax letters to:

(925)934-2616

A CALANES BLUEPRINT ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE



A Sober
Dance at
Acalanes
pg. 23

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HOMEcoming SAVED

Homecoming From the Inside Out

By Vanessa Totten
Co-Editor-in-Chief

For most AHS students, Homecoming is a one week break from the monotonous fifty-minute period and strenuous homework load. To the AHS leadership class, homecoming week is the culmination of months of planning.

Fitness gurus Lance and Luke (played by senior class vice-president Dave Miskie and ASB president Morgan Miles) set the theme for the week, stressing the importance of a safe, vandalism-free Homecoming Week on campus.

To the dismay of the leadership class, the decision to have float building on campus cut down on spirit and involvement as well as vandalism. There was little participation by the upper-classmen at float-building. Junior class president Amy Luke believes that there was an "unspoken protest" towards float building "because it was on school grounds."

The leadership class, predicting that student opinion would be against the new float building location, made it a major goal to make Homecoming as fun as ever. Miles made school spirit a top priority, often focusing the agenda of the summer leadership camp on encouraging student spirit.

The Leadership class started early attending a conference in Berkeley in late September to make detailed plans for homecoming. From the Berkeley conference through the last Friday of Homecoming, the 7 a.m. leadership class meetings were dedicated to the planning of Homecoming.

By the time the weekend before Homecoming rolled around, everybody in leadership was ready to start working. On Saturday, the school was abuzz with students making posters and props, including a bat-cave in the glass hall. Powderpuff teams flooded the fields all weekend in preparation for Monday Night Football.

True school spirit was demonstrated on

Monday morning. The hardcore leadership class members picked up balloons to decorate the parking lot with at 6 a.m. The powderpuff teams poured in, chanting and running through the halls.

Until I went to float building that night, I was pretty excited about my senior year Homecoming. At float building, I saw a few dedicated float makers. When the same situation presented itself on Tuesday and Wednesday night, Homecoming lost the aspect of fun it usually has because there was so much work to be done.

At the football game, when it was announced that the seniors lost, I was disappointed but not surprised. When we lost the football game people were disappointed, but not surprised. Obviously, homecoming no longer gets the students excited about being students at Acalanes High School. Though there was very little vandalism this year, Homecoming lost an essential element, school spirit.

TRICK OR TREAT

Mastering the art of trick or treating requires skill and strategy....

Before setting out on your candy trek, be familiar with the area because time is an issue.

Trick or treat tip #1- Pillow case- Forget plastic pumpkins, this is serious business.

TAKE ONLY 2!!

JACKPOT!

Wear a mask- Home owners aren't thrilled about giving candy away to pre adults

I'M JUST TALL FOR MY AGE!

Comfortable shoes- you'll be going the distance. But don't worry, you'll regain the calories

GIRL POWER! WAIT FOR ME!

Use your bargaining tactics- Because we all don't love Mrs. Smith's trail mix treat, it is important to trade your required goods.

Twix = 2000
Snickers = 1000
Kit Kat = 500

As Acalanes students near their last years of Halloween bliss, they have become trick or treating pros....

AGE	CANDY COUNT
2	10
4	20
6	30
8	40
10	50
12	60
14	70
16	80
18	90

Blueprint Illustration/Noel Fadden

MOVIE REVIEWS

Rush Hour Is Bumper to Bumper Comedy

By Thomas Wille
Staff Writer/Cartoonist

Rush Hour

PG-13



I was pleasantly surprised after seeing Jackie Chan's newest film *Rush Hour*, it accomplishes exactly what it sets out to do: make a mindless but entertaining film.

The plot, while certainly meaningless, follows the stereotypical action film line quite well. The daughter of the Chinese consulates kidnapped by an Asian mafia, and LAPD detective James Carter (Chris Tucker) is assigned by the FBI to keep a visiting Inspector Lee (Chan) from interfering. They, of course, get involved in everything. The director, Brett Ratner spares the viewer by giving the cutesy kidnapped girl very little screen time (thanks Brett) that can make movies like *Liar Liar* suffer.

Jackie Chan is the prize of this movie, just as in all of his movies. He has a definite likable quality, and works harder than any other actor in the biz. He does incredible stunts at the risk of great bodily harm, ostensibly only to please his audience. However, in contrast to *Rumble In The Bronx*, or his earlier Hong Kong action pictures, there are not that many wowing action scenes or stunts.

Chris Tucker, who has been incredibly annoying in his last few films (i.e. *The Fifth Element*) manages to be a little less derivative, making watching him less painful. He has somewhere around ten funny things to say in this movie, which is better than his usual zero. Chan and Tucker have an agreeable chemistry, and certain scenes such as a sidewalk dance to the seventies classic "War," can't help but make one smile. Chemistry is what this film is all about, and *Rush Hour* delivers on everything that's expected.



Courtesy Photo/Official Rush Hour Home Page

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's contrasting characteristics react in *Rush Hour*.

The Spanish Prisoner

PG



"Don't trust anyone" is the message of David Mamet's (*Wag the Dog*) *The Spanish Prisoner*, newly released on video. This would be thriller like the log ride at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, where there is no window dressing and a run down ride with only one huge drop at the end.

The Spanish Prisoner, is the first post cold war spy movie. In this nouveau post cold war world, the power elite is no longer Washington or the Kremlin, but multinational corporations.

The plot follows naive mathematician Joe Ross, played by Campbell Scott who has just created a formula that will insure his company's cornering of some unspecified market. However, there are industrial

spys and corporations ready to do anything for the formula.

Steve Martin provides the movie's best acting as Jimmy Dell, a businessman who is not quite as he appears.

The worst aspect of *The Spanish Prisoner* is its acting. Although the movie is independent and features mostly unknown actors, most of the characters seem stale and unimportant, the female lead shows almost no emotion throughout the entire movie. The scriptwriting, supposedly Mamet's greatest talent, is flat, as evidenced by the surreal and unrealistic way the characters talk about human nature.

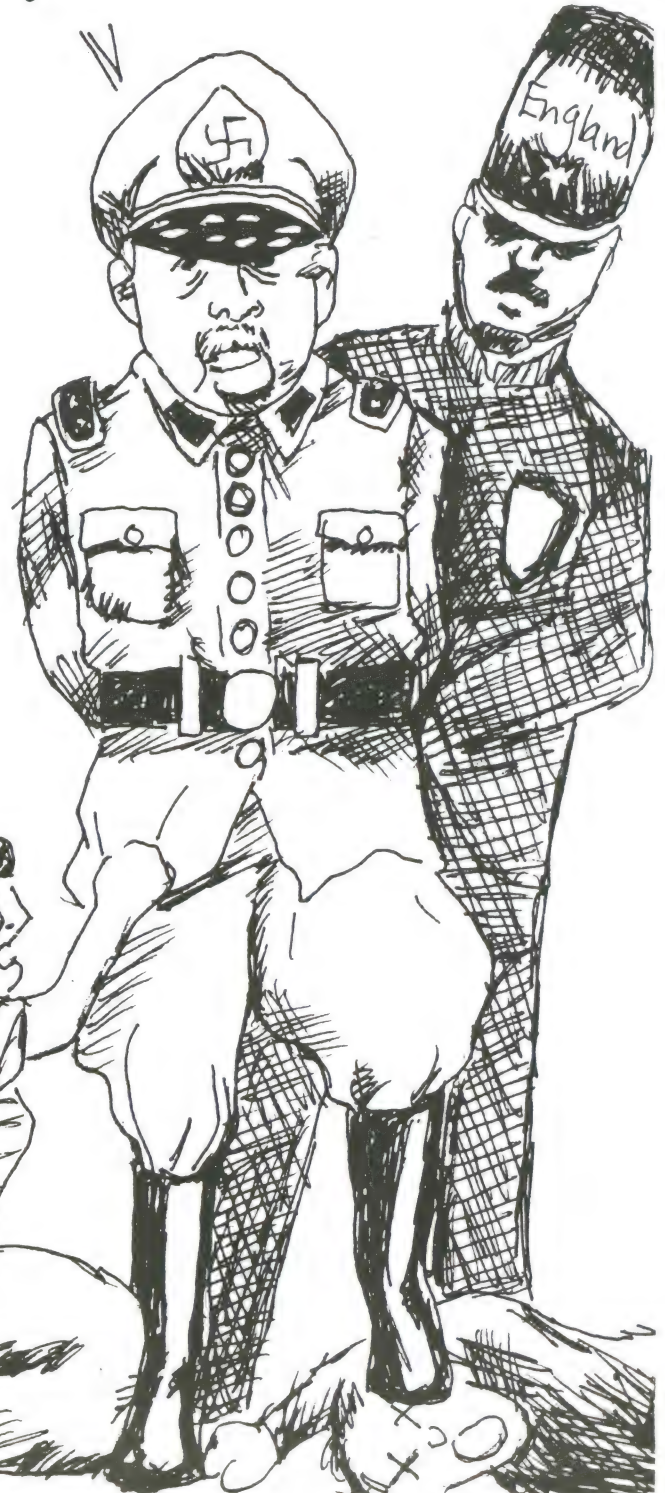
The plot however, is extraordinary, and once it is instigated the film picks up. The film requires absolute attention from the viewer because everything that happens becomes part of a richer tapestry. The way everything is connected reminded me a lot of the *Usual Suspects*, but unfortunately this film doesn't have the acting or dialogue to match that film.

Movies rated on a 4-star scale

THOMAS' TOONS



you can't arrest me,
I have diplomatic immunity!
It's a violation of my human
rights!



AN ACALANES DANCE WITHOUT ALCOHOL

Augusto Pinochet - war criminal
and Chilean dictator from 1973-1989.
Currently in prison in Britain,
was brought to power in
a CIA sponsored coup
overthrowing the democratically
elected socialist president
Salvador Allende Gossens.
He murdered 4000.

A CALANES BLUEPRINT SPORTS



Football
Continues to
Falter
pg. 25

Blueprint

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GYMNASTICS

McKnight Vaults Her Way to the Top

By Noel Fahden
Staff Writer

In a large, nondescript warehouse in Concord, Janet McKnight stands on a four inch wide beam and prepares to fly.

Seconds later, she sprints down the balance beam, springs off her hands, and propels herself into the air while defying gravity and physiological capabilities. After curling and twisting like a synchronized swimmer in air, she descends from her flight into a perfect landing.

Appropriately, "Taking Care of Business" plays over the stereo. Even though McKnight is nearing her fourth hour of practice, she continues to execute her routine on the balance beam, each time going stronger and higher. Throughout the entire year, four days a week, McKnight and her teammates practice at Golden Gate Gymnastics from 3:30 to 8:00.

Before becoming a gymnast, McKnight had been a competitive swimmer for seven years, but she became progressively bored with the sport. She saw gymnastics while watching the 1992 Olympics and, like other girls all over the country, decided to try it. Six years later, McKnight is in level 10. The next highest level is the elite level for those who compete in the Olympics or World Championships.

Like many athletes, McKnight struggles with the constant pull between academics and athletics; the intense part of the gymnastics season is during the most hectic part of the school year. Competitions sometimes take her as far as Hawaii and all over the western United States. The first

few meets occur during finals or review for finals.

However, McKnight doesn't have many regrets about dedicating so much time to the sport. "I don't have later to do this....I don't think I'm missing out on anything," she says.

In competitions, there is a team score and so everyone on her team is supportive of one another because they are all friends. She also likes her coaches; "...they're great...they are really supportive and they want you to do well so the team does well," she said.

One of McKnight's coaches is Tracee Talavera who qualified for the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. As a coach, Talavera is clearly supportive of the girls and it is obvious that she enjoys what she is doing. Janet is "a really determined girl and for a coach, that's great. She's also really positive," said Talavera.

McKnight is 5'4 which is considerably tall for a gymnast but she doesn't feel it affects her abilities. "There's no specific body type...you have to learn to work with how tall you are," she says. She has never broken a bone but she has torn a hamstring. The most common injuries are twisted ankles, bruises, or tendonitis in the wrists.

Women gymnasts compete in four



Senior Janet McKnight performs a daring stunt on the balance beam during a practice at Golden Gate Gym.

Courtesy Photo

events: the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. McKnight's favorite event is the vault, which is when the gymnast runs toward the 'horse', takes off from a springboard, puts both hands on the surface of the horse and is propelled into the air before making a controlled landing.

"The hardest part about gymnastics is fear. It takes over your body and you have to push yourself. When something is hard, you have to just forget about your fears," she says.

Her hard work and determination have paid off. Next year, McKnight will be attending UC Berkeley on a "full ride" scholarship.



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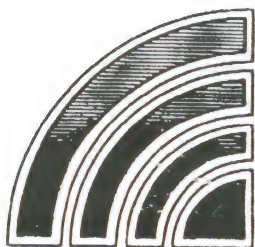
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SIDELINES

Competition Spurs Racism on the Field

By Chris Vetek

Sports Editor

Indisputably our society does not live up to the famous, or infamous words of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence:

"All men are created equal."

In today's diverse society, racism to differing degrees is an inevitable pitfall of this diversity.

But in the contemporary sports world, despite the presence of the same diversity, "racist" acts such as the one that occurred on Sunday, October 18, in the 49ers-Indianapolis game are rare incidents.

Sure, one could point to Fuzzy Zoeller's "collard greens" remarks, and the ensuing media blitz. Okay, but the very fact that this sticks out in memory illustrates the point.

Here's the run down on the latest controversy. Runningback Garrison Hearst fumbled the ball at midfield, and guard Kevin Gogan put a strong hit on Colts linebacker Andre Royal, who allegedly

called Gogan a "honky white boy".

Gogan did not take this lightly. Several times he searched for Royal to "talk" it over with him, but Royal was not to be found. He said he had "never heard anything like that" in his twelve years of being in the league (Contra Costa Times 10/19).

He conferred with team consultant, Dr. Harry Edwards, who led the charge in the 1968 summer Olympics protest that climaxed when two black American athletes raised closed fists as a protest to the stagnation of the American civil rights movement.

Edwards said that "on-field racial incidents are 'very infrequent'" in football (Times 10/20), and argued that the epithet was not something he would take lightly.

Guard Ray Brown said "incorporating race into trash talk is taboo" (Times 10/20).

Maybe this incident was not worth mentioning. Maybe Gogan and his supporters were being overly sensitive

afterwards, and maybe in reality this happens a lot. Maybe, but that is still irrelevant.

The incident was an exception, that's the important part of all this, and of course there are other exceptions, but to a large extent, are contemporary sports not a model for how society should deal with its racial tensions and its diversity?

Brown said "You should respect all races and religions on the field" (Times 10/19).

Great! That means, in Brown's view, when athletes march out for competition, they simply focus on their jobs, nothing else. Should not a society struggling with racial tensions take a small peak at these so-called "meatheads" and the long-honored norms and taboos of sportsmanship, and should not "on the field" be taken out of Brown's statement?

Of course, but "how" is another question for politicians to answer.

Perhaps they need look no further than the football field.

CROSS COUNTRY

Vetek Leads Dons to Victory

By Marimikel Charrier

Staff Writer

Acalanes cross country scores have been like the stock market lately, bouncing from new highs to unusual lows.

Senior Chris Vetek took 1st overall with 16:50 in the TCAL mass center meet at Ne-whall Park in Concord on October 14. This meet was the first leg of the league championship. Junior Darryl Wong came in 12th with 17:44 and the varsity boys closed with 4th preceded by Dublin, Las Lomas and Miramonte, respectively.

The varsity girls finished third place and only missed Miramonte by three points. Leading the ladies was junior Nikala Prowznik in 4th with 20:23 and junior Mary Thomas in 6th with 20:38.

"We have a pretty solid top 5 who are pretty much going to stay the top 5," said Thomas.

Earlier that month was the Clovis Invi-

tational in Fresno which Coach Manny Myers described as the "fiercest competition ever" there. Even though Vetek ran a blazing 17:07 for the varsity boys, he only took 15th overall and the varsity boys team took only 9th.

Junior Joe McKinley said "I did my first mile better than I've ever done it on the flat track" and he only came in 89th overall with 18:53.

The top varsity girl was Prowznik, who took 29th with 20:58, while Thomas, though only 26 seconds behind, came in 46th. The girls also took 9th.

Freshman Royce Anderson ran the fastest freshman race ever for Acalanes with a 17:58.

"I paced off of (junior Darryl Wong). He started out really well and adrenaline carried me through the hills," Anderson said.

Myers described him as one of the best freshman runners at Acalanes in a long time.



Courtesy Photo

Chris Vetek leads at the mass center meet.

WATERPOLO

Dons Blow Campo Out of the Water

By Teresa Wickham

Staff Writer

In a closely played game, the Dons overcame the trying force of the Campolindo boys water polo team in overtime with a score of 9-8 at home.

During the course of the game, the Dons battled for domination of the water with Campolindo, having a score of 8-8 at the end of the game.

Senior driver Matt Lynn had two goals, while senior Joel Cororan had one. Junior Drivers Connor Deal and Danny Holligon each scored one, and junior hole sets Trevor Wagner and Pat Reilly added three and one, respectively.

The Dons went into overtime and scored in the first 3 minutes and holding the lead for the win.

The Miramonte boys water polo team once again wiped out Acalanes 11-5 at home. Although the Dons put up a good fight, it was not good enough to overcome the overpowering Mats.

Early in the first quarter, Miramonte scored a four meter shot after junior hole set Trevor Wagner sunk there player. The Mats were not to go unanswered, however, as senior hole d Joel Corcoran took a back handed shot which the goalie could not block, tying the game 1-1.

"The first part of the game started out really slow, but after that we pulled together," said Miramonte coach Kurk Everest.

Defense for the Dons was not strong enough to stop the Mats from scoring two goals before the end of the half.

"We were really strong the first half of the game, then we just died," said senior driver Matt Lynn.

In the last half of the game, the Mats ripped apart their dying prey with six goals. Junior driver Danny Holligan and hole set Pat Riley, along with senior driver Scott Hudson helped get in the last goals before suffocating under the relentless force 11-5.

"Acalanes did an excellent job. They stayed strong the entire game, and at the end we dominated and overcame them," said senior Miramonte driver Scott Nolan.

The Dons thrashed Las Lomas, easily dominating them 12-9.



Blueprint Photo/Cathy McPhee

Junior goalie Grace Woods distributes the ball to junior driver Renee Harris after a failed shot by Campo as the Lady Dons press towards Campo's goal.

Lady Dons Capsize Campo

By Teresa Wickham

Staff Writer

The Lady Dons once again thrashed Campolindo and demolished them under their mighty waves with a 3-2 win at home on Thursday, October 22nd.

"We never let down our guard. The key to our offense was rotating hole sets, enabling us to utilize other players in driving," said junior goalie Grace Woods.

The Lady Dons took three goals in the first three quarters with only two from Campolindo in the third quarter. Campolindo hole set Brea Jasper was completely shut down by senior hole D Heather Stretch.

Junior drivers Annie Olson and Sonia Lamel and senior hole set Michelle Migliore scored the only three goals in the game.

The Don's coach said that they had "good defense, ineffective of-

fense, and we shut down their key hole set Brea Kasper."

The Acalanes girls water polo team overcame the trying force of the Las Lomas girls, winning 4-1 at home on Tuesday, October 20th.

During the course of the game, Las Lomas scored and was only answered with one goal from junior driver Annie Olson.

With a tied score, the girls went into overtime with three unanswered goals, two from senior hole set Michelle Migliore, and one from junior driver Renee Harris, ending the score 4-1.

"Our team did not wake up until the third quarter, and had an ineffective offense. After Anne scored a high corner shot, we came alive, but Las Lomas was a good team," said junior goalie Grace Woods, one of the best goalies in Northern California.

FOOTBALL

Dons Suffer Loss On Home Turf

By Reed Miller
Staff Writer

The Dons hopes of winning the Homecoming game against Dublin literally slipped through their hands with fumbles handing Dublin two quick scores.

Dave Iversen sustained a mild concussion on the second fumble, adding to the Dons' 17-14 loss.

The Dons did not let the situation they were in get them down. On the first play of the Dons next drive, Jordan Engledinger, replacing Iversen, ran 76 yards for a touchdown, making the score 14-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Coach Smith had nothing but praise for replacement quarterback Engledinger. "I think you have to take your hat off to him. He played a hell of a game."

Two possessions later, Acalanes scored again with Corey Hardin running in the touchdown and the two-point conversion, tying the game at 14-14 at the half.

The second half was filled with unsuccessful possessions for both teams. Late in the fourth quarter, Dublin drove to the Dons 4 yard line but were stopped there. Dublin kicked the field goal, making the score 17-14.

The Dons had one last chance to win the game when senior Cody Norris's kickoff return gave the Dons excellent field position. With only 3:30 left on the clock, Engledinger was scrambling to his right to throw downfield. A Dublin defender stepped in front of the receiver and intercepted the pass. Dublin ran the clock out on their next possession.

Engledinger felt the Dons played a great game despite the loss. "We just tried to step it up, fill in the gaps we needed to, and play hard, that's all."

The Dublin head coach felt that Acalanes "played hard. They had some adversity, lost their quarterback, and they didn't miss a beat."

The Dons' 35-14 loss to Los Lomas at home on Friday, Oct. 16 came at the hands of the Los Lomas quarterback, Ryan Martin. Martin completed only eight passes, but earned 149 yards off those eight completions.



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Senior defensive back Rob Meinbress carries an interception downfield for a touchdown against Las Lomas at Las Lomas on Friday, Oct. 16.

The game started out looking hopeful for the Dons. In the second play of the first quarter, Acalanes recovered a Las Lomas fumble. On the Dons first play, Corey Hardin rushed 55 yards for a touchdown, breaking tackles along the way.

The Los Lomas offense was relentless, continuing their pass attack with a long bomb to #22, Just in Seely and a touchdown pass to #25, making the score 14-6 at the end of the first. Seely hurt the Dons defensively as well, making an interception off of Iversen.

Late in the second half, Las Lomas was threatening to add to their 21-6 lead when senior Rob Meinbress got a big interception. The Dons drive resulted in a touchdown pass to Meinbress, and the two point conversion by Hardin, making the score 21-14, Las Lomas.

Meinbress had a great game but felt that Las Lomas's big plays hurt them. "We have to work harder," he said.

The Dons began to look frustrated as Las Lomas scored one last time, making the score 35-14 shortly before the end of the third quarter. The Las Lomas coach felt that their long passes loosened up the "whole entire defense", allowing them to make plays.

Coach Smith felt that they should not have lost by as much as they did.

"That teams not 21 points better than us, and they know it, and I think we beat ourselves in that (game)," he said.

In the Dons 21-13 victory at Benicia on October 9, the game belonged to Hardin.

He rushed for 154 yards and a touchdown and also threw a touchdown pass to Meinbress. Hardin's rushing touchdown came on a 65 yard run in the fourth quarter.

Benicia had scored twice in the first half, making the score 13-7, giving the Dons the come from behind win over Benicia.

BOYS SOCCER

Dons Give Las Lomas the Boot

By Myles Rush and James Sherwood

Staff Writers

The Acalanes varsity soccer team ended league play with a bang, beating Las Lomas in their last game of the season 3-1 on Oct. 22 at Acalanes.

In the first half both teams went scoreless. The Dons had to play one man short because of an injury to senior Justin Fossum's ankle in the game against Campolindo possible ending his season.

In the second half Las Lomas scored on Acalanes making the score 1-0. Acalanes came back with two goals by junior Bret Boudreaux, followed by a goal by senior Sean Parks, resulting in Acalanes winning 3-1 over Los Lomas.

Two days earlier Acalanes beat Benicia 3-0 at Acalanes, where all three goals came from Boudreaux. He scored in the 26th, 65th, and 80th minutes of the game.

"Bret Boudreaux with the hat trick hustled all throughout the game, and fought for every ball," said Acalanes coach Ed Blengino.

The win put Acalanes at 11-1-1 right behind Miramonte in the TCAL. Senior Mark Philpot controlled the defense by setting up the back line as well as making three saves in the game.

"Basically it's important for us to go into the playoffs and NCS with momentum which we have gained today," said Blengino "You want to keep winning as you head into the playoffs."

The Dons tied rival team Campolindo 2-2 on Oct. 16 at Campolindo in an anticipated game against two top teams. The score was 1-0 Campolindo in the first half until junior Paul Gillen scored.

The score remained 1-1 as the second half began, Campolindo's number fifteen scored, pushing the score



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Sophomore midfielder Rusty Phillips drives past Campo's Andrew Zucoli at Campolindo on Oct. 16. The Dons tied Campo 2-2.

to 2-1. The final goal of the game came on a free kick outside of the 18 yard box by Parks.

Campolindo was 8-2-2 coming into the game, losing to Benicia 3-0 and to Miramonte 4-2. The Campolindo coach, when asked about his teams effort, said it was "Solid...allright...could have played better, should have finished, should have won." He called Acalanes, "The best that we've played all year."

Campolindo's coach thought that he had a chance to win at halftime,

when the game was tied 1-1, and he knew it was going to be a tough game beforehand.

It was a "classic rival battle between schools, hard fought with lots of injuries, players limping off the field...close from the beginning to the end," said the Campolindo coach.

Acalanes finished the season 12-1-1. Playoffs began on Monday October, 26th. Acalanes will face off against either Campolindo or Dublin. The playoffs will determine Acalanes's seeding for the North Coast Section Championships.

GIRLS TENNIS

Acalanes Holds on to Third in TCAL

By Hiro Kagiya
Staff Writer

The Acalanes Girl's Varsity Tennis Team has volleyed, served and stroked their way to hold an outstanding record of 10-2 in league play thus far by beating Las Lomas, Concord, Dublin, Freedom and Mount Diablo, losing only to the superb playing of Miramonte and Campo placing Acalanes in third place with Campo in second and Miramonte in first for the time being.

The Lady Dons showed their hunger as they sliced through Freedom and Mount Diablo High, tasting two clean victories with both scores at 9-0. Carving up both Mount Diablo and Freedom was number two varsity singles player Lauren Keyes, with a current record of 8-2, who with a strong serve and superb double handed ground strokes was able to chew up and spit out both of their number one players.

Even after these two killer matches, the Dons hunger for blood was far from being satiated, and they went on to make a huge win over Dublin High 8-1. Then in two tight matches the Dons were able to claim victory over Concord and Las Lomas winning both times 5-4.

Then in a decisive game against the strong Miramonte team the Lady Dons tried to bite off more than they could chew and coughed up a painful 8-1 loss. The Mators kept their first place ranking, which Acalanes had at the beginning of the sea-



Blueprint Photo/Robyn Jones

Senior Lauren Keyes delivers a vicious double handed ground stroke to an opponent from Mount Diablo High School. Keyes has a record of 8-2.

son. The loss pushed Acalanes to second place, tying them with their arch rival Campo who suffered a loss to Miramonte as well.

In an away game the Dons suffered another decisive loss against the Cougars who tore their way into a 8-1 victory pushing the Dons further back into the standings to third

place. Though Acalanes did not return from the plains of Armageddon victoriously, all the players fought hard like varsity doubles team of Taylor Bentley and Paige Momsen who lost a close game. They lost the first set 6-2, won the second set 6-2, and in a tie breaker lost the last set 8-6.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball Grapples to Gain 8-1 Record

With softball attitudes and cheerleader smiles, the Dons have savagely killed their way into a tie with Campo for second place in TCAL with a record of 8-1 and 21-6 overall.

Until their game against Miramonte on Thursday, Oct. 8, the Dons were 5-0 and tied for first in TCAL with Campo and Miramonte.

Jill Sexton and Julie Hunt both had 9

kills, but that could not pacify Miramonte's wrath. Acalanes lost in three consecutive games 7-15, 9-15, and 6-15.

The Dons put the Knights in their place on Oct. 13th. Humbled by four losses out of five games, the Knights moved into third place with the Benicia Panthers.

Diving on the floor, shoving balls in Dublin's faces and out-yelling their opponents by far, the Dons defeated Dublin 15-

4, 15-5, 15-12.

Lindsay Cimina lead the pack against Dublin with 10 kills and one roof. Sam Skarl, coming in late in the second game, scored the winning point with a roof of her own.

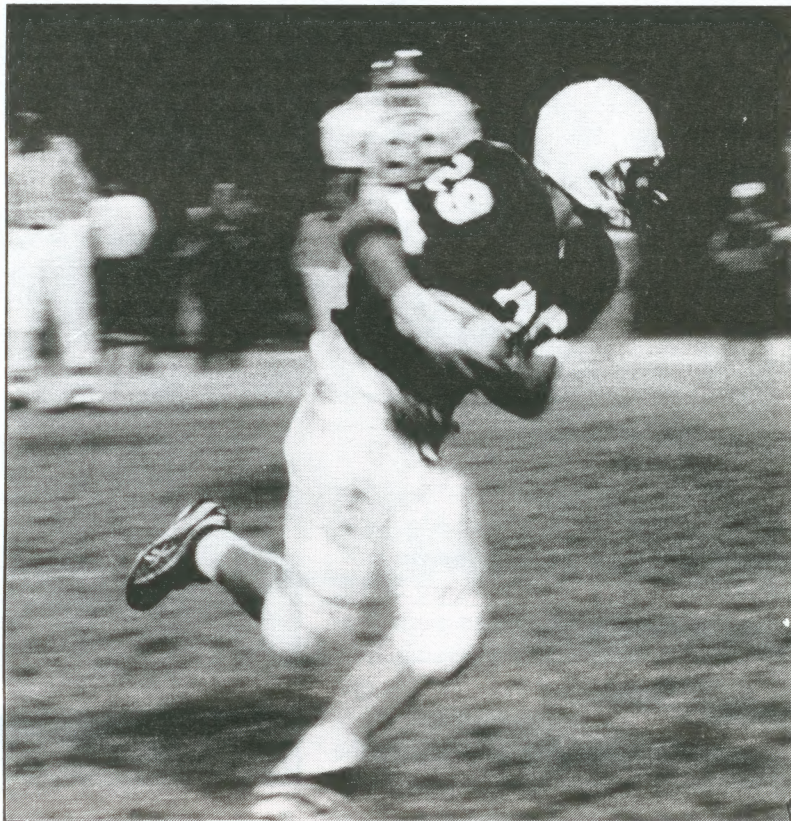
Changaris said that despite the "unacceptable" 7 serves out early on, the team played well overall.

-Jake Nicholson

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE

Rob Meinbress

Senior defensive back Rob Meinbress has been chosen as Blueprint's male athlete of the issue. Meinbress is the key to the Dons' defense, senior Jake Zarah said. "He gets all the big hits, he's all over the field, and when he makes mistakes he's quick to fix them. He's a leader on and off the field," he said. Zarah remembers one time Meinbress had a "great" interception against Las Lomas with a minute to go, and he then ran for a touchdown. Coach Pat Smith says his biggest improvement over last year is his confidence. "Robbie can always make instinctive changes in our defense at the last second," he says. Last Friday's 17-14 loss against Dublin was Meinbress's 26th consecutive start in three seasons of varsity play, a new Acalanes record.



Blueprint Photo/Julie Cellini

Audrey Lin

Senior hitter Audrey Lin is this issue's female athlete of the issue. Lin is by no means the only deserving player on this deep girls volleyball team led by veteran coach Jim Changaris, but she stands out as a leader as a second year varsity player. Senior setter Alicia Young, another experienced varsity teammate, says Lin takes her leader's role seriously. "She has consistency, especially in passing. Whenever I set her a ball she'll get it in the court," she says. This calculated consistency is vital for any team's frontline to have, and Lin has demonstrated her superior skills to help this year's squad. She put forth a 7 kill, 4 ace effort on October 13th against the Las Lomas Lady Knights.



Courtesy Photo